THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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439 PROJECTS GET THE NOD IN MoEF's LOCKDOWN OVERDRIVE

The Environment Ministry's expert appraisal committee took up 837 proposals, the highest in past 3 years, and rejected one

COMMITTEE HURRIED THROUGH SCRUTINY?

Bi-monthly virtual meetings between April and May saw around 200 projects getting the EAC approval. This means the panel had only 2-4 days to deliberate on the projects, leading to some members saying that they were given very less time to scrutinise the proposals. Among the proposals given expedited nod was the one for the country's new Parliament building

MINISTRY CLEARS THE AIR ON SITE VISITS

- Clearing doubts over site visits during the pandemic, the ministry said sub-panels carried out inspections, when required by the EAC
- EAC in mining, infrastructure, thermal power and hydel projects in CRZ had considered 822 and 798 projects in 2019 and 2018
- Gujarat topped the list of states with most number of approvals

466

PROJECTS RECEIVED E.A.C. CLEARANCE IN 2019; THE NUMBER WAS 436 IN 2018

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

K'taka breaches 3,000-mark in new Covid cases; CM to take stock today

Meeting will discuss steps to contain spread of virus as concerns heighten over rising cases

A health worker takes a swab sample at the Kempegowda Bus Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AFTER four months, Karnataka recorded 3,082 new Covid-19 cases in a single day on Sunday with 12 deaths, taking the total positive cases to 9,87,012 ad the death toll to 12, 504. The state's active cases too have surged from 7,342 as on January 23 to 23,037 on Sunday.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar attributed the surge to a mutated variant of the SARS-CoV2 virus which has been spreading in the state. "From 300 cases per day, the figures have shot up to 3,000, which is a ten-fold increase. Strict restrictions will be placed at border districts and also on those travelling to Bengaluru. The Home Department will be responsible for this and all these matters were discussed with Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday to prevent the situation from turning into a disaster," he said.

"Hospitals will be burdened if cases increase and the number of deaths will also be proportional to the number of people testing positive. The next 4 to 8 weeks will require strict measures, the Covid-19 Technical Advisory Committee has advised. These will be communicated to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa in a meeting on Monday, along with other ministers," Sudhakar said.

The CM has called for a meeting on Monday evening at his home office 'Krishna' where most cabinet ministers, health and BBMP officials will put their heads together to work out an effective strategy to fight the spike in Covid numbers.

CONTINUED ON: P3

Karnataka Second Wave BATTLE

1,06,328 Total samples tested on Sunday

3,082 Test positive on Sunday

TOP 3 DISTRICTS WITH MOST POSITIVES

2,004 Bengaluru Urban

159 Kalaburagi

115 Udupi

33,83,872 People vaccinated so far

Limited lockdown coming in M'rashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai/New Delhi

WITH Maharashtra's Covid-19 positive cases continuing to grow exponentially, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday directed the state's health task force to prepare a detailed lockdown plan that would have minimum impact on the economy.

Minister Nawab Malik confirmed plans for a limited lockdown without major impact on economic activities. "Industries where large number of people gather, which could increase the virus spread, may have to follow stringent guidelines while manufacturing units will function without any impact," Malik added.

The meeting convened by the CM was attended among others by the health minister, health secretary and members of the health task force. Apparently, current measures like restricted mobility in public areas and places of work as also night curfews, have not slowed down the pace of infections.

The health secretary informed the CM that there is shortage of beds and ventilators in some parts of the state.

Last year on September 17, there were three lakh active patients and 31,351 deaths. But now, as of Saturday, there are 3.30 lakh active patients and the cumulative toll is 54,073.

"The task force said the toll could climb, especially due to delay in hospitalisation without timely testing and non-compliance of the home isolation protocol. On March 27, as many as 35,726 patients with infection were detected and this number might touch 40,000 in the next 24 hours," the health department said.

Amid the spike, officials in Pune and Chennai plan to assess whether people with a history of infection are getting re-infected. In the first such exercise in India, they have decided to look for igG antibodies in newly infected people. The antibody igG typically appears nearly 14 days after exposure to the virus and lasts for several months. P7

GALLOPING RATE Cases in last 24 hours ending Sunday morning

Maharashtra	35,726
Chhattisgarh	3,162
Punjab	2,805
Gujarat	2,276
Madhya Pradesh	2,142
Tamil Nadu	2,089
Kerala	2,055

62,714 Fresh Covid positive cases registered in India in a day

24 crore+ Tests for Covid-19 conducted across India so far

4.97% Cumulative positivity rate so far

INDIA HOLD NERVE, WIN SERIES

Pacer Shardul Thakur and his teammates celebrate a dismissal during the 3rd ODI between India and England at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Sunday. India beat England by 7 runs in a nail-biting finish | PTI, PTI

MANAGING COMPETING IDENTITIES IN ASSAM

Ear to the Ground
ASSAM POLLS

H KHOGEN SINGH @ Guwahati/Goalpara/Kokrajhar

SHYAMAL Biswas, not his real name, walks briskly into his sparse, customer-less hotel in Bonda Colony, Kamrup district, to engage in an animated discussion with his wife and petite daughter. Moments later, he comes out with a cup of tea and rather proudly declares that he had just got his first shot of the Covid-19 vaccine.

His free vaccination was not without hiccup, though. "The girl there said my name is not in the list but when I told her that I have been sent by a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, she checked and gave me the shot," the loquacious Biswas said.

"You see, my age is different in all my documents," he said, fishing out his election identity card from his shirt pocket where he is aged 46 and his PAN card where he is 66. "The teachers who carried out the survey for these documents goofed up, they are useless," he declared.

Bonda Colony, a town of a few hundred households just outside Guwahati, is inhabited mainly by Bengali Hindus, like Biswas. Locals said they are mainly settlers from Bangladesh who have, over the years acquired documents that give them the right to claim they belong here. These documents are often got through illegal means, which perhaps explains the wide discrepancy in Biswas's age.

The Bengali Hindus mostly support the BJP. In return, the party gives them government benefits, like the vaccination shot Biswas got which he was perhaps not entitled to yet.

"Why shouldn't the Hindus be given citizenship in India, where else will they go?" he said of the Citizenship Amendment Act as the conversation traversed from small talk to politically-loaded, highly emotive issues, inviting surreptitious glances from a motor mechanic next door.

About 100 km away in Dhanubanga near Dudhnoi towards Bangladesh, shop owner Sundar Kumar Rabha has different political priorities. Belonging to the Rabha tribe, an Indo-Tibetan community who are among the first settlers of Assam and hence considered as indigenous people, Sundar said the Rabha Autonomous Council should be included in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Corona infects mouth cells, can cause blisters

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

WHILE it's known that the upper airways and lungs are sites of Covid-19 infection, and that the virus can infect various parts of body such as the digestive system, blood vessels and kidneys, a new study by an international team of experts has revealed that the Novel Coronavirus infects the mouth cells which causes dryness in the mouth, loss of taste and blisters. Health professionals in Karnataka concur with the findings.

The study was published in Nature Medicine on March 25. "The potential of the virus to infect multiple areas of the body might help explain the wide-ranging symptoms experienced by Covid-19 patients, including oral symptoms such as taste loss, dry mouth and blistering. Moreover, the findings point to the possibility that the mouth plays a role in transmitting SARS-CoV2 to the lungs or digestive system via saliva laden with virus from infected oral cells," the study says.

Dr Sharon Colaco Dias, HoD and Consultant, Dental Medicine, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, pointed out that she had seen a Covid-19 case where the patient had blisters in the soft palate. "Covid-19 has been associated with vascular irregularities due to viral damage of blood vessels. The virus gains entry into the endothelial cells that line blood vessels via the ACE2 receptor and damages them, leading to oxygen deprivation. Tissue necrosis, including blisters, can be the result of vessel damage. Case reports have been cited in the literature that show confirmed Covid-19 patients having oral ulcerations that were suspected to be caused by the SARS-CoV2 virus."

To determine if the virus in the saliva is infectious, the researchers exposed saliva of eight asymptomatic Covid patients to healthy cells grown in a dish. P3

₹6,000 farmers' dole will apply to fisherfolk too

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the Centre will provide an assistance of ₹6,000 per year to fishermen on the lines of the aid currently given to farmers under the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme. The BJP's manifestos in Bengal and Puducherry have already promised to replicate the annual assistance of ₹6,000 given to farmers for fishermen as well if it comes to power.

"Under the scheme, our government is transferring ₹6,000 per year to the bank accounts of farmers across the country. We will transfer ₹6,000 to the bank accounts of fishermen as well and effectively implement the Central scheme," said Rajnath, who was in Thiruvananthapuram as part of the NDA's election campaign.

Last year, the fisheries minister had urged the PM to extend the benefits of the scheme to about 20 million fishermen in the country.

Later, he termed the Kerala government's decision to institute a judicial inquiry against Central agencies probing gold smuggling and related cases as 'unconstitutional' and said it was a challenge to India's federal structure.

GROWTH ENGINE

Railways' infra spend set to touch ₹1.6 L cr this fiscal

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

THE 2020-2021 fiscal has been one of huge achievement for the Indian Railways on numerous fronts, including infrastructure development, freight and electrification, according to Suneet Sharma, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board.

In an exclusive interaction with The New Indian Express, Sharma said the capital expenditure (capex) on infrastructure development during the current financial year was far higher than the previous years. "We expect a capex of ₹1.61 lakh crore. If you look back, the average capex used to be in the range of ₹45,000-50,000 crore in Indian Railways."

On the electrification front, Railways covered between 4,000 -4,500 km during an average year. "We already covered 4,900 km (up to March 26) and around 25 inspections of railway sections are lined up before March 31. We expect to do 6,000 km of electrification this year, the highest ever in a year by the Indian Railways," the chairman said.

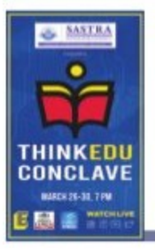
On the lines of air cargo traffic, freight transportation is proving to be a steady revenue grosser. P5

EXPRESS READ

CD-gate: Woman set to appear before SIT today

Bengaluru: The woman in the alleged CD-gate video, which also allegedly involves former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, is expected to appear before the SIT investigating the case on Monday. P4

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIALCAMPUS DIGEST
edex YOUR LIFE COACH
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 of City Express



'NEP IS LIKE *KHICHDI*'

The new National Education Policy is like a *khichidi*, said BJP MP Subramanian Swamy on the third day of the ThinkEdu Conclave 2021. Though it tried to do a lot to correct the colonial hangover, it didn't quite make it, he added | P5

BETTER LIFE

Helping them overcome Covid blues, UNDP finds jobs for many youths

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN an effort to bridge the unemployment gap post the Covid-19 lockdown and its impact, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) recovery measures have seen at least 1,468 people placed in private sector jobs, mainly in Bengaluru and Mysuru, across sectors like e-commerce, logistics, manufacturing, telecom and retail.

The highest salary that people were placed at was ₹25,000 per month. By March 31, the recovery programme aims at placing 2,500 young people in Karnataka, and 6,000 people across the country.

The programme is being carried out in collaboration with the state government and district administration, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA), Peenya Industries Association (PIA), Mysore Industries Associations (MIA) and other MSMEs in Karnataka. Magic Bus India Foundation is UNDP's partner agency in this initiative.

The recovery measures were initiated after considering that the soaring levels of unemployment had made re-employment of workers from the informal economy essential.

The employment recovery programme ensures access to job opportunities for vulnerable and the most-affected youth and adults in select districts of Karnataka. The Covid-19 pandemic caused widespread socio-economic disorder which left an inevitable impact on the vulnerable sections, especially from the informal sector, the education system and the economy as a whole.

The lockdowns further impacted incomes and livelihoods, and the limited savings have made survival extremely difficult for families living in poverty, UNDP officials said.

Moreover, the World Economic Situation and Prospects report by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has stated that high unemployment caused by the pandemic in 2020 is set to continue in 2021.

CONTINUED ON: P5

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 29/03/2021 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Prathami 10:50 pm
• Nakshatra: Hastha 4:37 pm • Moon in Tula Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 35°C
FORECAST Cloudy

Sunrise 6.18 am
Sunset 6.31 pm
Moonrise 7.15 pm
Moonset 6.43 am

'STRUCTURAL REFORMS NEEDED IN BBMP ACT'

Classification of entities as corporation authorities faulty; increased term makes Mayor accountable: Thinktank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A city-based thinktank has criticised the recent amendments to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Act, saying, "The BBMP Act, 2020 showcases a poorly-designed and inadequate legislative structural framework for effective and decentralised municipal governance. It may require incorporating certain structural reforms regarding corporation authorities in BBMP."

P G Shenoy and C R Ravindra, directors of Centre for Urban Governance Studies & Policy Research | EXPRESS

The Centre for Urban Governance Studies and Policy Research (CUGSPR) has come down on the proposal to include ward committees and area sabhas as corporation authorities. P G Shenoy and CR Ravindra, directors of CUGSPR, told *TNIE*, "Specifying the mayor, ward committees and area sabhas as corporation authorities may not be appropriate. The mayor exercises the collective power of the BBMP Council and does not comprise an authority in his individual capacity, and he/she cannot be specified as a corporation authority. As ward committees are composed of non-councillors and the responsibility of governance is only with the councillors, specifying them as corporation authority may not be required. Assigning any statutory powers to area sabhas and classifying them as corporation authority may be imprudent."

They said, "But the classification of Zonal Committees can be justified as it is construed as wards committee. A Constituency Consultative Committee headed by the MLA has not been specified as a corporation authority. Roles and responsibilities of these Committees should not facilitate an MLA to directly interfere with the day-to-day administration of BBMP as it would defeat the purpose of autonomy of local self-government."

On the Mayor getting a term of two-and-a-half years, they said he/she could be allowed to re-contest the second time ending with the five-year term of the Council.

The longer tenure may make the mayor more accountable. Removal of mayor through no-confidence motion could be facilitated which may enhance credibility of the institution of Mayor, they said.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Universities up vigil amid rising Covid-19 cases

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@Bengaluru

WITH cases mushrooming in educational institutes, vigilance has been increased in university hostels. From keeping hostel occupancy to half to earmarking rooms for preliminary care of symptomatic patients, the authorities are leaving no stone unturned.

University of Agricultural Sciences Vice-Chancellor Dr S Rajendra Prasad said two rooms in each of the eight hostel blocks are reserved for preliminary Covid-19 treatment.

1K in dorms

The nearly 1,000 students, mostly female, are accommodated in the dorm rooms meant for visitors or parents who visit the campus.

The Vice-Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University, Dr Karisiddappa, said that classes for the final cohort of first semester students will be completed by April 10. So far, students have been accommodated in batches in the hostels of colleges affiliated to the university, he said.

> For now, affiliated colleges have been instructed to restrict the accommodation in hostels to one person per room
>
> Dr Karisiddappa, V-C, VTU

By February, the fourth-year (seventh semester) students were accommodated in the hostels and they left 10 days ago.

Now, the second-year (third semester) students and the first-year (first semester) students are accommodated in the hostels. While the second-year students will complete their examinations on April 7, first-year students will complete their classes on April 10.

"Before reopening for the next semester, the situation will be reviewed with the Education Department. For now, affiliated colleges have been instructed to restrict the accommodation in hostels to one person per room," he told *The New Indian Express*.

The first semester students will complete their classes by the second week of April and then have their examinations from April 19 till the end of the month. The third semester students are now permitted to stay in hostel rooms till they finish their examinations on April 7, Dr Karisiddappa mentioned.

Sir MV terminal will be opened soon, says Rly Board Chairman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Sir M Visvesvaraya railway terminal at Baiyappanahalli will be inaugurated soon, said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board, Suneet Sharma.

Briefing the media along with top railway officials at the Rail Wheel Factory at Yelahanka on Sunday, Sharma said, "We have planned for the inauguration and will get some time from the Prime Minister. It will be inaugurated very soon." Asked if it could happen this month, he said, "It looks very difficult." He was speaking after inspecting the new terminal.

Sharma lauded the facilities at the station and billed it as having the best infrastructure in Indian Railways.

"It is in tune with the development of Bengaluru as one of the hubs in the country. It will provide the much needed respite to Bengaluru as the other two terminals (KSR and Yeshwantpur) sometimes feel congested," he said.

Railway Board Chairman & CEO Suneet Sharma at the Sir M Visvesvaraya terminal at Baiyappanahalli.

Asked about the maintenance part, Bengaluru Divisional Railway Manager A K Verma said, "The contract for mechanised cleaning has already been finalised." General Manager, South Western Railway, A K Singh said, "We will have similar cleaning facilities like the Metro."

To a query on the trains that will shift to the new terminal, Verma said, "We have already identified 32 pairs of trains. After full train services are reintroduced, they will start one by one."

"Pre-Covid, we used to run 1,702 trains per day including Mail and Express services. Today, we are running 1,350 of those trains. We are running 10 per cent of Passenger trains. They are unreserved ones and the protocol has to be very strict," Sharma said. He did not respond to a query on the loss suffered by the Railways due to disruption of its services. "As far as financials are concerned, we are generally doing very well and meeting all our liabilities," he said.

WALL FOR THOUGHT

Pedestrians walk past a wall outside Ashok Nagar police station, which sports empowering messages | MEGHANA SASTRY

Govt schools not 'orphans' to be adopted: Activists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS many as 17 academicians and activists in the education field have taken offence to the use of the word 'adoption' in the ongoing school adoption process after the state government constituted a committee to monitor school development programmes.

In a memorandum to the state government, academicians and activists led by Niranjanaradhya VP, Senior Fellow, Centre for Child and the Law, National Law School India University (NLSIU), have said that the term 'school nurturing' should be used instead of 'adoption', and have iterated that the Department of Public Instruction had already begun a programme called 'Shalegagi Naavu Neevu', to mobilise additional support for nurturing government schools through School Development and Management Committees (SDMCs).

"We note, with deep distress, the announcement by the state government, of a 'monitoring committee' to monitor the 'school adoption' programme... Government schools are not orphans to be adopted. The parents' body, established through an Act of Parliament, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, is the parent of the school; hence no authority has a right to give away the school in adoption to anybody else," they said.

"The notion of 'adopting' a school creates a sense of helplessness, charity, lack of resourcing and abdication by the constitutionally mandated responsibility of the state which is delegated to the SDMC, as well as by its trustee, the state government," they said.

"'Today, we are in the era of 'Rights-based development' and not 'Charity-based approach' of erstwhile monarchies. We request the CM and the Education Minister to set right this mistake," they added.

Students at a government school

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

29th March: It's Monday morning and no better time to set out on the rest of your life. Ultimately astrology is all about understanding your potential, not about giving in to fate. All the top astrologers say 'listen to your horoscope but make up your own mind'. Then the cosmos will sit up and take notice!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Why do you let other people push you around? You must stand up for yourself if financial differences have become a cause of contention, but to do so you must be absolutely sure of your ground. Other people have the best ideas, by the way, so listen well.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Current planetary patterns have tended to make you overconfident in the financial sphere. You must bear in mind that purchases and commitments you enter into now will have to be paid for sooner or later. In love, take it easy and play it cool.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You have no right to expect other people to bail you out. That witty planet Mercury is urging you to take responsibility for your own actions, no matter what knocks your confidence has taken lately. The day's intensity could be unsettling, but you'll survive.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You have been waiting for a partnership to bear positive results for some time. Yet no matter what you have done, the entire situation has remained maddeningly vague and a close friend has proved impossible to pin down. At work, take obstacles in your stride.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Much as it disagrees with your basic temperament, when the Moon encourages service and self-sacrifice, as it does today, you must knuckle under and perform those chores that lesser mortals regard as normal. You're still full of energy, but don't burn yourself up.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It is because Virgos are said to be so logical and analytical that many people fall into the trap of believing that you lack imagination. However, over the next two to three months, a number of close friends will discover the true extent of your talents.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Mars' new location could indicate about of strong speaking. Your have a tendency to agree with others, but now you must stand your ground. Else, business and financial affairs could slip. Mercury's support is genuinely helping you discover the truth.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
After months of suppressed emotions and anger over the way you have been treated in the past, you may now speak your mind. Be careful not to make any unfair allegations. Keep a secret for a little while longer, and help others over a personal hurdle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
So much is going on behind the scenes that you will tend to feel out of control of your own fears and suspicions. The planets are creating illusions to lure you into actions or statements you'll come to regret, so keep a clear head, at least for today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You're quite a shy person and are reluctant to show your true feelings, even to close friends. Today, you must make an effort to understand your emotional inclinations, otherwise you'll fail to maximise your potential. An adventurous approach in love wins the day.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Seldom has so much depended on your ability to make your point with firmness and integrity, while steering clear of any argument which will upset colleagues. If a new responsibility comes your way, you may have to accept, whatever your doubts.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You may gain from disputes which are causing distress to friends and partners. You, unlike them, have an ability to see the larger picture and long-term consequences of their activities. In love, you are struggling to get your point across, but you may have to wait a little longer.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

NOW THAT LT. FUZZ HAS NOISE-CANCELING HEADPHONES YOUR SQUEAKY CHAIR WON'T BOTHER HIM
YEAH
...SO I STARTED SNACKING ON REALLY STINKY CHEESE
1/28
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

YOU'RE LOOKING EXTRA JOLLY TODAY!
HO! HO! HO!!
I BET IT'S FUN GIVING GIFTS TO KIDS ALL OVER THE WORLD
HO! HO! HO!... IT REALLY IS!
I BET HE MAKES MORE DELIVERIES THAN AMAZON

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SU DO KU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

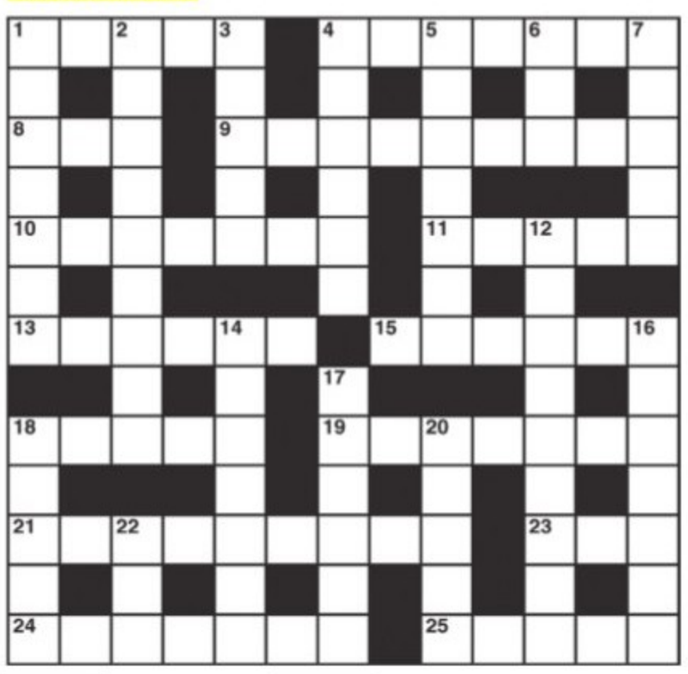
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

8		5		4			3	
			3	1	9		5	
			8			1		
1	5		4			9	7	8
	9	4				2	1	
3	2	8			1		6	4
		3			7			
	4		9	8	3			
	8			6		3		7

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

2	4	8	6	9	7	5	3	1
3	6	9	2	5	1	8	7	4
5	1	7	3	8	4	6	2	9
4	8	2	5	1	6	3	9	7
1	9	5	7	3	8	2	4	6
6	7	3	4	2	9	1	5	8
8	2	1	9	7	5	4	6	3
7	3	6	8	4	2	9	1	5
9	5	4	1	6	3	7	8	2

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 It's quite rough and ready as a rule (5)
4 Singular-looking giant? (7)
8 It may light up half the arcade (3)
9 It is placed in a challenging position (6,3)
10 Am clear out of burnt sugar (7)
11 An ear perhaps for making music (5)
13 Time to make things more palatable (6)
15 Corset-making company (6)
18 Animal comes from Asia and is taken in by father (5)
19 Disconcerted magnate turns deep red (7)
21 Free of duty? (2,7)
23 A trap for the drinker (3)
24 Once more a good man is in opposition (7)
25 Recorded as well known (5)

DOWN

1 Rest can come from such hypnotic states (7)
2 Indefinite truce in an engagement (9)
3 Should it be made from brushwood? (5)
4 Light vessel gets led astray (6)
5 Vehicle runs on the tankers' contents (7)
6 An alternative to a key ring (3)
7 Old English boy holds a number (5)
12 Final word for one about to retire (9)
14 Eggs turn into cheers (7)
16 One should be in entering a new trade (7)
17 What may be charged for the odd man out (6)
18 Square market place abroad (5)
20 Inexperienced where it comes to putting (5)
22 The French go over a meadow (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Helicopter, 8 Ghana, 9 Sea mist, 10 Outside, 11 Swell, 12 Hermit, 14 Static, 17 Anglo, 19 Charity, 21 Tea time, 22 Slice, 23 Eight bells.

Down: 2 Exactor, 3 Iraqi, 4 Ousted, 5 Transit, 6 Raise, 7 Italic type, 8 Good health, 13 Ironing, 15 Trivial, 16 Accent, 18 Grave, 20 Aisle.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OPENR

NYHOP

NUGIES

BARJEB

Oh my gosh!
Do you think it's safe to play here?
You'll like your new home.
Gotcha!
WHEN THEY SPOTTED THE ALLIGATOR ON THE GOLF COURSE, IT CAUSED ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:** FLUFF RHINO DAMAGE STRING
ANSWER: The sun creates eruptions of magnetic energy with ease because the sun – HAS A "FLARE" FOR IT

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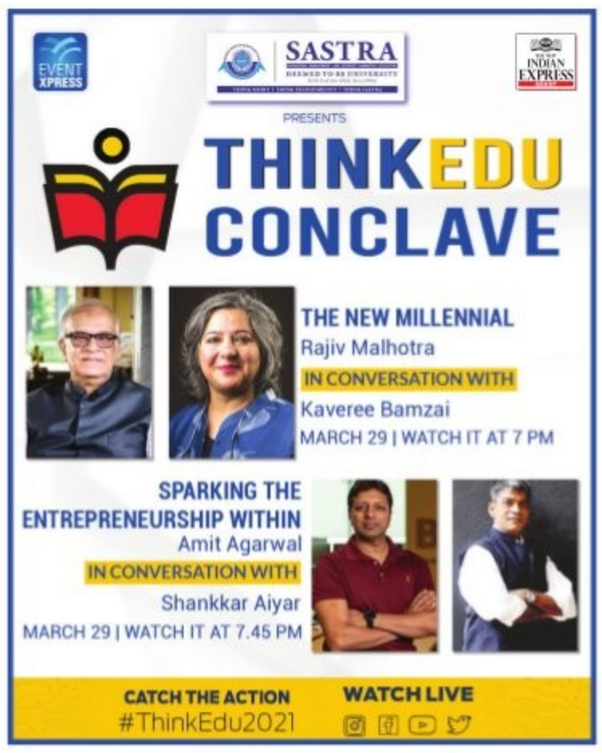
16 staffers test positive in pub

As per data provided by BBMP on Sunday, a pub on New BEL Road turned into a Covid cluster. At least 16 out of 87 staffers tested Covid-positive. Meanwhile, Haj Bhavan Covid Care Centre has 30 Covid patients isolated at the facility as of March 28



Highest vaccination target achieved in 60+ age group

Healthcare workers second with 5.47 lakh inoculated with first dose

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

AS on March 27, 16,41,201 people aged over 60 of the listed 50 lakh have got the jab, making it the category with the highest vaccination target achieved.

Healthcare workers stood second with 5,47,370 people of the 16 lakh target (34.21 per cent) being vaccinated inoculated with the first dose for Phase 1.

For Phase 3, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar had estimated 16 lakh people aged above 45 with comorbidities to get the shot, of which, 30.10 per cent (4,81,749) took it, with the category coming third. Meanwhile, the lowest vaccination coverage has been among frontline workers, at 1.11 per cent (2,23,144), although their target is far higher at two crore.

Dr Srinivas Gulur, District Health Officer, said there has been enough awareness on the vaccine among healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, Group D, ASHA and Anganawadi staffers.

"Educated people above 60 are coming forward in both government and private centres, but the same category of people in rural areas are not so keen. We cannot force them either. Among the over 45-year category, where people have comorbidities, the awareness seems to be low, despite our Information Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns," Dr Gulur said.

From April 1, all aged above 45 will be able to get the vaccine, irrespective of comorbidities. This is expected to boost the coverage of this category, health officials said.

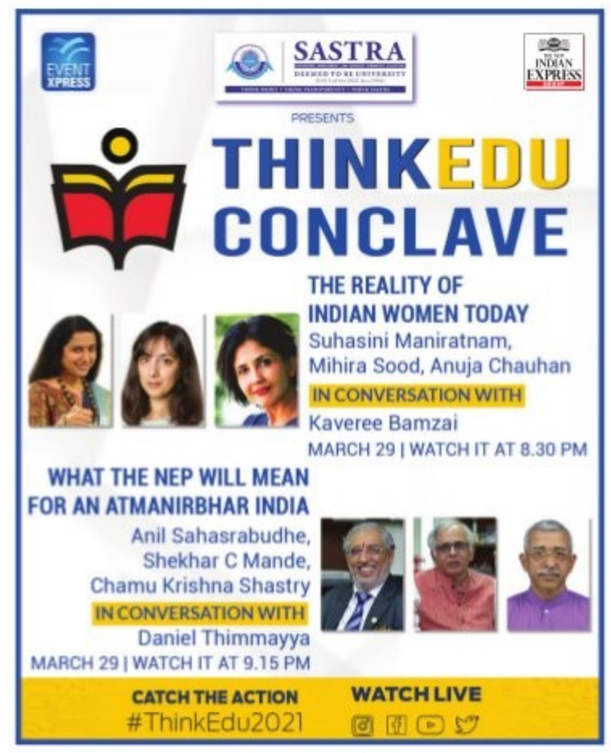
"There are specific categories of comorbid people who are eligible to take the vaccine now, if they are above 45 years of age, which is why the numbers are lesser. Some frontline workers are deferring vaccination, as they may be on some medical treatment. For those above 60, the vaccine is a matter of security, which is why they are coming forward," said Dr Anant Desai, District Health Officer of Bagalkot.

Bengaluru and Bagalkot are among the eight districts with better vaccination coverage in the state.

A PHC doctor at Chikkaballapur said they do explain about the benefits of taking the vaccine to frontline workers during meetings, but many do not want to take it. They refuse the jab, owing to misconceptions and fear of side-effects.

VACCINATION TARGET AND ACHIEVEMENT AS OF MARCH 27

COVERAGE	HEALTHCARE WORKERS	FRONTLINE WORKERS	SENIOR CITIZENS; AGED 45+ COMORBID
TARGET	16 lakh	2 crore	50 lakh (seniors); 16 lakh (age 45+ with comorbidities
ACHIEVEMENT	5,47,370	2,23,144	16,41,201; 4,81,749
COVERAGE %	34.21	1.11	32.82; 30.10



EXPRESS READ

Relative held for killing bartender

Bengaluru: The RT Nagar police on Sunday solved the murder case of a bar employee who was found dead inside her house in Nrupatunga Nagar. The accused Nawaz Pasha, (26), works with an event management company. The victim, Zara Imtiyaz, (28) was working as a bartender at a pub on Residency Road. Police said that Zara, with her younger sister Alia's husband Pasha, were consuming alcohol. The duo was in an inebriated state and Zara allegedly humiliated him. Furious over this, he took a kitchen knife and stabbed Zara and escaped after locking the door from inside. Based on a tip-off, Pasha was detained and he confessed to the crime. **ENS**

KIDS NOW MORE VULNERABLE TO CATCHING COVID: EXPERTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MONDAY'S meeting, convened by the CM, assumes importance at a time when the government has restricted wedding crowds to just 200 and imposed curbs on public gatherings during the upcoming festival season. Speaking to *TNIE*, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Jawaid Akhtar said, "Our testing is among the highest in the country and our target is 1.25 lakh per day. We have been testing aggressively."

While the Technical Advisory Committee has suggested tough restrictions, sources said there are some powerful forces which are opposing restrictions on theatres, malls and gyms. If the Technical Advisory Committee recommendations are enforced, there will be no problem, but not all recommendations have been enforced, the sources pointed out.

The concerns over the virus spread are real, specially considering the rise in numbers. Correspondingly, the recovery rate, which had been impressively rising from a dismal 35.29 per cent on July 20, 2020, is now seeing a consistent decline over the last over 10 days. It stands at 96.39 per cent after having reached upwards of 97 per cent in January-February.

It is mainly due to the large number of daily tests being conducted that the positivity rate is showing a steady decline over the last few months. It is 4.67 per cent on Sunday as compared to the peak of positivity rate at 12.54 per cent on September 27, 2020. Although it is much below that of Maharastra (14 per cent), Goa (10.7 per cent), and Ladakh (9.1 per cent), experts insist on the need to follow all the precautionary measures and avoid social gatherings, especially with the second wave expected would be worse than the first.

Sudhakar clarified that the Centre has said inter-state borders cannot be closed, but RT-PCR negative reports will be checked at border districts. Students from Classes 1 to 9 will be promoted without exams, he added.

This apart, in the second wave, it is noticed that the children are the ones who have been getting infected largely. Over 470 children below the age of 10 have been infected with Covid-19 since early this month in Bengaluru, as the city is witnessing a spike in infections. A total of 244 boys and 228 girls have been infected from March 1 to 26, official data showed. The cases among children were limited to eight to nine daily during the early days of this month, but they have steadily risen to 46 on March 26.

Some experts say, unlike in the past, children are now vulnerable because they are more exposed to outdoor activities, functions and gatherings, as also schools reopening for a certain age group, which was not the case earlier due to lockdowns. But Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, Chairman of Narayana Group of Hospitals, said, "During March last year, we needed a lockdown, but we do not need another one now. We need to vaccinate those in the 20-45 age group."

Kalaburgi district recorded the second highest number of new cases at 159 followed by Udupi with 115 cases and Mysuru with 114 cases. Dakshina Kannada recorded 68 cases followed by Hassan with 56 positives and Bidar with 63 cases.

'Coronavirus can reach lungs through saliva'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SALIVA from two of the volunteers led to infection of healthy cells, raising the possibility that even people without symptoms might transmit infection.

Then, the researchers explored the relationship between oral symptoms and virus in saliva, where saliva was taken from 35 National Institute of Health volunteers with mild or asymptomatic Covid-19. Of the 27 people who experienced symptoms, those with virus in their saliva were more likely to report loss of taste and smell, suggesting that oral infection might underlie oral symptoms of Covid.

Dr Sharon said, "It is known that the mouth is an important source of the spread of the virus. According to an American Dental Association Science and Research Institute study, when infected saliva is swallowed or tiny particles of it are inhaled, it can potentially transmit SARS-CoV2 further into our throats, lungs, or even the gut. It is known that saliva testing is a good way to detect coronavirus infection. The mouth, nose, sinuses, throat and lungs are all connected, and the virus can spread across all those regions in mucus that drains or is coughed up."

A health worker collects a swab sample from a passenger at Majestic bus terminal in Bengaluru | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Dr Pradeep Rangappa, Senior Consultant, Critical Care, Columbia Asia Referral Hospital, Yeshwanthpur, said, "The Covid-19 virus is known to spread through droplet formation, could spread through droplets formed from saliva as well. Virus is known to cause gastrointestinal disturbances in the form of diarrhoea and, in some cases, vomiting. Transmission from saliva to lungs could possibly happen. Transmission through saliva was widely reported from Iran when the pandemic began. The virus is known to bind abundantly to receptors present in these areas and can cause inflammation of olfactory cells which is hypothesised as a possible reason."

Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited
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No.: MC&A/F&A/FD/2020-21 Date: 29.03.2021

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only through e-procurement)

MC&A Ltd. invites separate tenders (8 Nos.) through e-Procurement portal as per KTPP Act, 1999 from reputed Nationalized Banks to quote competitive rate of Interest for investment of Company's surplus funds in Fixed Deposit. Documents can be accessed from e-Procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Tender Nos.	Last date & time for submission of tender	Opening date & time of tender
1	MC&A/F&A/FD/25/2020-21	05.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	06.04.2021 4.30 p.m.
2	MC&A/F&A/FD/26/2020-21	06.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	07.04.2021 4.30 p.m.
3	MC&A/F&A/FD/27/2020-21	07.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	08.04.2021 4.30 p.m.
4	MC&A/F&A/FD/28/2020-21	08.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	09.04.2021 4.30 p.m.
5	MC&A/F&A/FD/29/2020-21	09.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	12.04.2021 4.30 p.m.
6	MC&A/F&A/FD/30/2020-21	12.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	15.04.2021 4.30 p.m.
7	MC&A/F&A/FD/31/2020-21	15.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	16.04.2021 4.30 p.m.
8	MC&A/F&A/FD/32/2020-21	16.04.2021 4.00 p.m.	17.04.2021 4.30 p.m.

The management has the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereon.

Sd/- Managing Director

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:605/EEE/MWD/AEE(0)/HBL/2020-21/3348-57 Date:25.03.2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited is energizing 110KV SC line from existing 110KV Haliyal Sub station to the proposed 110/33/11KV Sub station at Alnavar(15.78 Kms) in Alnavar Taluk and Dharwad District **on or after 31-03-2021.** The above line is passing through the areas of Villages Allolli, Hullatti, Halasi, Neeralaga, Baloga, Yadoga, Kalasapura, Mangalawada, Hunasawada, Madanalli, Alnavar, and surrounding villages of Haliyal Taluk.

The above said Transmission line will be energized **on or after 31-03-2021.** The general public residing near the said newly constructed 110KV line and surrounding villages are requested to keep away from this power line towers, not to tie animals to the towers and not to throw green sticks, wires, tree branches etc., on the lines and not to climb the towers. If any body does these things, it will be most dangerous to their lives or to their animals. Public of the above villages are requested to take utmost care. KPTCL will not be responsible for any accidents due to the above mentioned causes.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele), Major Works Division, KPTCL, Hubballi.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL No.III, CHENNAI
5th Floor, Dewa Towers, No.770-A, Anna Salai, Chennai - 600 002. Phone: 28498182

DRC No.264/2019 **Dated:18.03.2021**
State Bank of India, Selaiyur **...Certificate Holder**
-Vs-
M/s.Euro Tech Engineers & Others **... Certificate Debtors**

DEMAND NOTICE

To

(1) M/s. Euro Tech Engineers, Rep. by its Managing Partner Mr. Jose George, 6/3, Mambakkam Main Road, Kovilancherry, Tambaram Taluk, Chennai-600 126. **(2) Jose George,** Kunnel House, Nellikutti Post-670 632, Kannur District, Kerala. **(3) Tom Jose,** ID No.LE130413-021468, Supervisor, L &T Construction, Shell NTCB Project, P No.7, Bangalore Hardware Park, Mahadeva - Kudigahalli, Bangalore - 562 149.

In view of the Recovery Certificate **DRC No.264/2019** (Copy enclosed) issued on **21.09.2019** by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-III, Chennai under Sub Sections 7 and 22 of Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (as amended from time to time) in terms of Order dated **06.03.2019** in **O.A.No.166/2016** specifying that an amount of **Rs.18,59,282.87 (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Fifty Nine Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Two and paise Eighty Seven only),** together with future interest **@8% p.a.** simple on **Rs.14,63,528/-** from **07.03.2019** till the date of realization and also the costs, is due/ recoverable from you, the details of which are given in the Annexure (DRC).

2. You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within **15 days** of the receipt of this notice to the Certificate Holder Bank, failing which the recovery shall be made as per the extant rules.

3. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay all costs, charges and expenses incurred for the service of the notice, other processes / warrants and all other proceedings for the realization of the debt in full.

4. This Demand Notice is being published in the Newspaper, since the earlier one dated 26.09.2019 sent to the above Certificate Debtors 1 & 2 returned "UNSERVED". The next date of hearing is fixed on 21.05.2021 at 11.30 a.m.

(RAMESH MANNAR), RECOVERY OFFICER.

ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು– 577102

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GEOLOGIST, MINES & GEOLOGY DEPT. CHIKKAMAGALURU - 577102
Email: sgchikmagalur@gmail.com Telephone: 08262-220039

No: DMG/SG/DS/E-TENDER/2020-21 Date: 29-03-2021

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮರು ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಲಾದ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಲ್ಲು ಗಣಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳ ಡ್ರೋಣ್ ಮತ್ತು ಡಿ.ಜಿ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್. ಸರ್ವೆ ಕಾರ್ಯ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು "Providing Services for conducting Drone and DGPS survey of Building stone Quarry leased / licensed area and any quarry area identified by the officers of DMG to carry out Boundary fixation and assessment of Volume of Minieral Extracted within and outiside Quarry area and to record the reduced level (RL's) of quarry lease granted with in Chikkamagaluru District".

ಆರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಕಂಪನಿಯವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸುವ ಮರು ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗದ ಆರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು E.M.D. Declaration format (Form-14) ನ್ನು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಗೆ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–04–2021ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿ ಜಾಲ್ತಿ ಕಲ್ಲು ಗಣಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಪ್ರಿ–ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಪರತ್ತು, ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು "ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ, ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಐ.ಡಿ.ಎಸ್.ಜಿ. ಕಾಲೇಜ್ ಎದುರು, ಮರಳಸಿದ್ದ ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಜ್ಯೋತಿ ನಗರ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ" ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಹಿರಿಯ ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ಗಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಭೂವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ಫೋರ್ಸ್ ಸಮಿತಿ (ಗಣಿ), ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

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Satish to file papers today

KPCC working president Satish Jarkiholi will file his nomination papers as Congress candidate for the bypoll to Belagavi Lok Sabha seat on Monday. Satish said, "KPCC chief D K Shivakumar, CLP leader Siddaramaiah and other senior leaders of the party from Mumbai-Karnataka will be present."

STRAWS IN THE WIND

'Safety' pin indeed

After doing a Sourav Ganguly on the floor of the Assembly by stripping his shirt and attracting a week's suspension, Congress MLA from Bhadravati BK Sangameshwara was back in the House last week. This time, he sported a vest over his shirt. When one of the scribes asked an aide about the change in the MLA's attire, he said that it was not the legislator's but his family's decision. Apparently, scared that he would once again go after his shirt in a fit of rage, the MLA's family pinned his shirt to his vest a 'safety' precaution or at least that was the joke doing the rounds in the opposition lobby that day.

'I am not a Tata, Birla'

Senior Congress leader Dr G Parameshwara recently had to act coy and deny vehemently that he was in the league of super-rich in the state. At a function to felicitate new gram panchayat members belonging to Left and Right communities from Scheduled Castes, Rajya Sabha member Dr L Hanumanthaiah meant it as a praise when he said, "As far as wealth is concerned, Parameshwara is no less than anyone in the state." Parameshwara's jaw visibly dropped and he scampered to clarify the statement when his turn came to take the mic. "I am no Tata or Birla. I have just been looking after my father Shikshanabheeshma H M Gangadharaiah's institutions." The rich legacy, you would say!

BSY has got a 'manasa putra'

The young president of the Karnataka State Government Employees' Association, Shadakshari, has made some impression on Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa. At the state-level executive committee meeting held in Tumakuru on Sunday, Shadakshari claimed that all the suggestions he gave to CMavaru during the pre-budget meeting have been implemented, like providing services online, computerising offices and six months additional maternity leave for women employees. A member of the association, attending the meeting, said, "Why not? He is like the manasa putra of the chief minister."

CD row: It's breakdown of law and order, says Siddu

Slams govt, cops for attack on DKS convoy, inability to trace woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CONDEMNING the attack on Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar's car in Belagavi on Sunday, Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah alleged that it was an act "sponsored by the BJP", and questioned the government's inability to protect the president of the chief Opposition party.

Shivakumar's car was pelted with stones and footwear in Belagavi on Sunday, allegedly by the supporters of former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi. Siddaramaiah said if this is the situation with a prominent leader, how would the government provide security to the people or even the woman in the video purportedly involving Ramesh Jarkiholi.

"This CD case is a classic example for the breakdown of administrative & police machinery in the State under @BJP4Karnataka govt. What does it mean when police says that they are unable to trace the girl? Is she like Vijay Mallya or Nirav Modi hiding abroad? (SIC)" Siddaramaiah tweeted, pointing out that the police have not been able to trace the woman even after 20 days.

The woman in the video has so far released five video statements since March 13 and is expected to appear before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) investigating the case on Monday. "The videos released by the victim clearly shows that the girl does not have confidence on both the State govt & the police dept. It looks like she is of the opinion that police are involved in the conspiracy against her. Home minister @BSBommai should address this concern," Siddaramaiah tweeted further.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told reporters that the woman and her family have been assured of all protection. "Yet, she is refusing to record her statement. We have even said we will go to wherever she is and take her statement. There is no question of anyone influencing the SIT," he said, dismissing the allegations of the woman that there was a nexus between the police and the accused former minister.

The videos released by the victim clearly shows that the girl does not have confidence on both the State govt & the police dept. It looks like she is of the opinion that police are involved in the conspiracy against her

Siddaramaiah, Congress Legislature Party leader

Supporters of Gokak MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi waive black flags as the convoy of KPCC president DK Shivakumar passes through, at Belagavi on Sunday

Won't file defamation case against woman's parents, says DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A day after the family of the woman seen in CD along with former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi blamed the KPCC president for using their daughter for political gains, D K Shivakumar on Sunday said that the law will take its course.

At a press meet on Sunday, he said, "Let the government do whatever it wants, but I just want to tell the police that they should carry out the probe impartially."He said that he will not file a defamation suit against the parents.

On the woman planning to give her statement to the SIT on Monday, Shivakumar said that he does not want to comment on the issue, as his focus now is only on the ensuing by-polls in the state.

On Saturday, the woman's parents alleged that Shivakumar would be responsible if anything happens to their family and urged him to send their daughter back from an undisclosed location.

On Sunday, as Shivakumar landed in Belagavi, Ramesh's supporters surrounded his car and allegedly threw stones and footwear. They also waved black flags, chanting, "DKS go back". Shivakumar later said that Home Minister (Basavaraj Bommai) should have an explanation for these incidents.

On Ramesh's supporters attacking his car, Shivakumar said, "I am ready to accept everything with a sportive mind. We will face this election peacefully. The voters should see the real face of BJP leaders."

Bommai, who was in Mangaluru, said that the footwear was not aimed at Shivakumar. "I have asked the local police commissioner to make sure that no such incidents take place and provide complete security to Shivakumar."

Like Saving Private Ryan, police trying to protect Ramesh: Cong

Congress leaders on Sunday urged the State Government to take action as per law against former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi as he was a government servant at the time of committing the offence. They said that like in the Hollywood movie, 'Saving Private Ryan', the entire BJP and state police are out to save Ramesh. Congress working president Saleem Ahmed, former MP VS Ugrappa, AICC spokesman Brjesh Kalappa and others said that it has been 20 days since the CD came out, but no arrest has been made so far.

Youth Congress members protest against former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Advocates to approach SC, seek transfer of case to another state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A team of advocates, assisting the woman seen in the CD along with former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, has decided to approach the Supreme Court, seeking the transfer of the case to another state, saying that the BJP leader involved in the case is influential and the woman is worried about her safety.

One of the advocates K N Jagadish Kumar told The New Indian Express, "The woman has trust issues with the police department and that is why she is still hesitant to appear before SIT to give her statement. We are approaching the City Civil Court seeking permission to record her statement under Section 164(1) of CrPC, where a Judicial or Metropolitan Magistrate can record any statement or confession during the course of the investigation. We also appeal that the woman should not be handed over to SIT for any inquiry as a counter-complaint has been filed against her." He said, "Senior advocates in Delhi on Monday will file a petition before the SC to transfer the case to any other state as the woman is facing open threats by Jarkiholi."

Kumar said that the eight advocates associated with the case have been receiving threat calls from unknown numbers, asking them not to represent the woman. "We will file an additional case before the police on this," he added.

SIT issues notice to Ramesh Jarkiholi

Two days after an FIR was registered against Ramesh Jarkiholi, SIT on Sunday issued a notice to him to appear before the investigating officer for questioning. Police said the notice asks Ramesh to appear before SIT on Monday. This will be the third that Ramesh will appear before the SIT. "We are planning to interrogate him based on the allegations of the woman. She has said that Ramesh demanded sexual favours to get her a government job," he added. Ramesh was questioned by SIT on March 16 and also on March 24, when his mobile phone was taken for analysis by the Forensic Sciences Laboratory.

Parents reach Belagavi amid police security

Belagavi: A day after appearing before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in Bengaluru on Saturday, the parents of the woman in the centre of the CD storm arrived in Belagavi on Sunday. They were escorted by a 16-member police team from Bengaluru, led by ACP Parameshwar who handed them over to the APMC police station on Bauxite Road in the city. Soon after their arrival from Bengaluru during the early morning hours, Inspector Dilip Kumar of APMC police station enquired with the family on their stay, occupation and security requirements before they were taken to their rented house at Kuvempu Nagar. A six-member police team led by an officer in the rank of ASI that including three constables and women constables have been posted at their house. The woman's parents and two brothers are staying in the house.

Karjol, 5 others from K'taka in BJP SC/ST Morcha core panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FIVE leaders from the state BJP, including Deputy Chief Minister **Govind Karjol**, have been appointed as special and permanent invitees of the party's National SC/ST Morcha core committee and one more leader as a member.

The saffron party on Saturday announced its list of National Executive members, special invitees and permanent members who will hold office for the next three years.

Minister for Forest, Kannada and Culture Arvind Limbavali, Minister for Animal Husbandry Prabhu Chavan and Minister for Fisheries and Ports S Angara along with Karjol have been appointed as permanent invitees to the core committee.

Former MLC DK Veeraiah has been appointed as a special invitee, while Kolar leader Venkatwsh Mourya has been appointed as a member of the SC Morcha's core committee.

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Sunday congratulated all the members.

The move to include six leaders from the State to prominent posts in the SC Morcha comes ahead of the bypolls to Maski and Basavakalyan Assembly constituencies and Belagavi Lok Sabha segment to be held on April 17.

WILL IT BE GOLD RUSH AGAIN IN K'TAKA AFTER MINES ACT MODIFICATION?

AMIT UPADHYE, V VELAYUDHAM & RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI

KARNATAKA, which has the only operational gold mine in the country, is now at the crossroads as its gold production is depleting, and the authorities have realised that not enough is being done to optimally exploit the rich gold deposits in the country.

Union Minister for Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi says, "The country has rich deposits of gold, but it is not being either explored or extracted optimally because of the costs involved. As per the geological survey, only 10 per cent of the available gold resource has been explored, and of that, only 1.5 per cent is being extracted, which is the lowest in the world. The Central Government is thinking of bringing necessary changes in its policy."

Parliament recently cleared the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment (MMDRA) Bill, 2021, to reform the mining sector and Karnataka would gain a lot if its gold mines are revived.

Mining experts, who demand further exploration of gold, call for feasibility studies and getting statutory clearances to restart mines.

As per the estimates of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL), every district of Karnataka has one or more gold deposits. As the State Government takes steps to expand operations at Hutti Gold Mines – the deepest and only operational gold mine in the country, experts hope that it will be back to golden days for Karnataka.

The government is looking at new gold deposits that can be mined economically. At Kolar Gold Fields, which went defunct many years ago, there is a demand for shallow extraction of the remaining gold from the mines, and also from heaps of mud deposited at the site.

Ingaldal and Kappatagudda in Gadag are other likely gold mines, but extraction there would not be economical, experts say. Unlike iron ore mining, where 2-3 tonnes of ore can be extracted from 10 tonnes of mud, one can get only 0.1 gm gold from one tonne of mud.

Ingaldal in Chitradurga has no more gold deposits, while mining at Kappatagudda in Gadag district is not possible as it has been declared a wildlife sanctuary.

The British mined for gold for many areas in Gadag and also achieved some initial success. But the focus shifted to KGF after rich deposits were found there.

Experts point out that surging gold prices and the current account deficit on gold imports, which contributes to around 2-3 per of GDP, make it ideal for reviving gold mining in the country, and also achieve self-reliance to an extent.

Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML), which managed KGF, was closed in 2001, while from Hutti Gold Mines, a state government-run entity, around 2 per cent of the country's requirements are met.

The UPA government had planned to sell the assets of defunct BGML in 2006 by floating a global tender, but it was caught in several legal tangles. Finally, the court directed the government to reconsider reopening the gold company, giving rise to hopes that KGF could be revived.

The MMDR Act empowers state-owned entities like HGML to take over the defunct BGML to restart operations. The BGML is being offered under two options: If Karnataka prefers auctioning of BGML, the Union Government has asked it to pay the company liabilities which is at ₹1,600 crore from the proceeds and later can divide the remaining proceeds between State and Centre; and the Union Government has also offered no objection certificate (NOC) to the State Government if they are interested in running KGF mines.

Jayakumar, president, BGML Supervisors, Officers Industrial Cooperative Societies Ltd, says JMJ Minerals Private Ltd, set by former BGML experts in 2016, had signed an Expression of Interest (EoI) with the State Government to start tail dump operations at KGF mines with an initial investment of Rs 500 crore by bringing in world-class technology, but as the state government was unable to acquire the land and parcels, the matter got delayed.

"However, changed circumstances and policies of the government have made resumption of gold extraction at KGF a reality. We continue to push the idea with the Government that the assets and rights of KGF mines need to be retained by the Government and only the Government can engage JMJ Minerals as their investment and technical partner on a contract basis as mine developer/operator or under the PPP (public-private partnership) arrangement, on an agreed profit-sharing basis," he says.

Karnataka Mines Minister Murugesh Nirani too has announced private participation in gold production by upholding the complete rights of the company in HGML.

The Union Government has principally agreed to transfer around 3,000 acres of unutilised vacant land that belongs to BGML for state-sponsored schemes to set up an industrial corridor.

Further, the Non-Ferrous Technological Development Centre, an autonomous testing lab under the Ministry of Mines, has got a big breakthrough in the tail dump extraction process and found rare earth minerals like palladium along with gold.

Jayakumar says, "With the demand for gold high, the government prefers to exploit the yellow metal from KGF dumps. The government will upkeep all their property rights, including licenses under them, and will engage credible investment-cum-technical partners directly. This arrangement will close all presumptions of selling BGML properties through auction. Our industrial cooperative has also submitted detailed feasibility reports on making use of vacant facilities at BGML, like the hospital. Other units will be used to set up operations to generate employment for local residents."

BIG PICTURE

He say, "We are also closely working with the government to resolve the retired workers' statutory dues and this can be resolved by implementing the new CPSE guidelines issued by the government. We are also initiating action to hand over the houses to beneficiaries by issuing title deeds. If all goes well without any interruption from those impersonating as trade unions and yet urging for global tender for BGML asset sales, resumption of gold production at KGF will be a reality. This will, to some extent, ease the unemployment problem prevailing in the region."

Giving boost to Hutti gold mines

The Hutti Gold Mines is the first Indian company to become a member of the World Gold Council and it is the deepest underground mine in the country. Mining in the government-owned Hutti Gold Mines situated in Raichur district began in 1880. It was mined by John Taylor & Sons for Hyderabad (Deccan) Company owned by Nizam of Hyderabad. In 1956, it was renamed as Hutti Gold Mines Limited (HGML) with the formation of Mysore State. In 1985 Chitradurga Copper Company and Karnataka Copper Consortium were amalgamated with HGML.

The present depth of the mine in the 28th level is 910 metres. Total gold produced by HGML so far is about 90.61 tonnes as of April 1, 2020.

Murugesh Nirani, who visited the mines on February 26, said that he has instructed officials to prepare a detailed project report for the extension and modernisation of HGML. He also rubbished rumours of any efforts to privatise HGML.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Sunday continued to lash out at the Congress and Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala for making the Election Commission intervene and stop the distribution of food kits

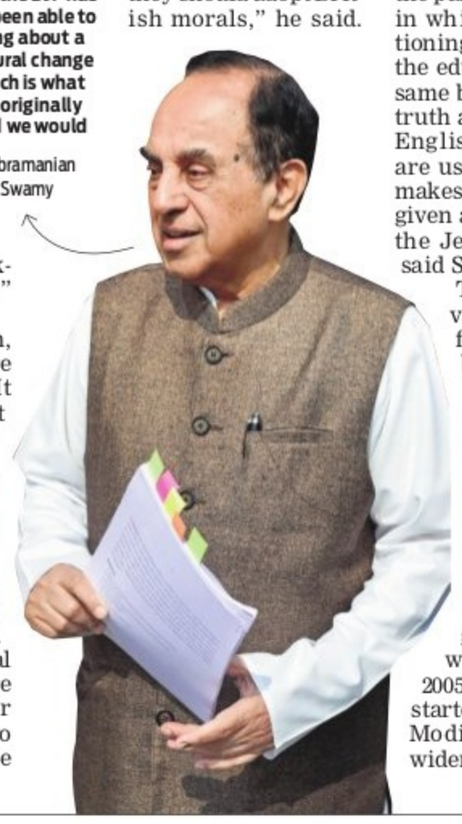
'WE COULD HAVE REBIRTHED SANSKRIT'

Subramanian Swamy said this on Day 3 of the ThinkEdu Conclave 2021, which also saw illuminating discussions on India's tech landscape and women in films

The new National Education Policy (NEP) is nothing but a *khichdi*, said veteran BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP **Subramanian Swamy**. He added that the Indian education system has not changed much since Thomas Babington Macaulay devised the Minute on Education in 1835. Swamy was discussing the Indian education system and what changes it needs to be more 'Indian' with Senior Journalist Kaveree Bamzai at The New Indian Express' ThinkEdu Conclave 2021.

When asked whether the NEP incites hope for a viable change in the Indian education system, Swamy said, "These are all like *khichdi* — a little bit of this and a little bit of that. The question is: when you go to a class, does your teacher make you think? Here, whatever the teacher says, you memorise and reproduce in the exam and you will get the marks. The room for original thinking and research is not there," said Swamy.

> I regret to say that the BJP has not been able to bring about a cultural change which is what we originally said we would
>
> Subramanian Swamy



But this begs the question, what needs to change? There are two things, said Swamy. "It should not be necessary to get a bachelor's or master's degree to get a job which is reasonably decent. I think 75 per cent of our people go to college to get a bachelor's degree while in the United States, it is 35 per cent, in China, it is 45 per cent. That does not mean China is less literate. They train people for technical things so they get a job. Here the minimum qualification for mechanics is BA. Those who go to higher education must be committed to research," he said. "The second thing is that you need to give a very decent salary to teachers. Maybe in Delhi University you get a decent salary or in JNU you get an even decent salary. But in the primary schools, if you compare with US and China, you'd see the difference. Much of the thinking process is developed in schools and if they go to college, they go straight into writing papers," he said.

"This system has not changed much since Macaulay's time. And had stated his objective quite clearly — he said I want to create people who are Indian in blood and colour and they should dress in British attire, should speak English and not Sanskrit and they should adopt British morals," he said.

"Mughals had burned down our libraries but the British were a little smarter about it. They wrote an alternate history while the Mughals just burned down things. The alternative history is that we are not one country or one people. The north is Aryan and the south is Dravidian. These are the words they had taken from us. Dravidian is a word that Adi Shankara introduced. It means a place where the three oceans meet. There is no word called Aryan. There is only the word Arya which means anybody who is a cultured person," Swamy added.

"You become an obscurantist if you talk about the past and this is the format in which we have been functioning. We are still struggling, the education system has the same books with the same untruth and nonsense in it. The English language which we are using out of compulsion makes it easier. We could have given a rebirth to Sanskrit as the Jews did with Hebrew," said Swamy.

The Chinese have innovated furiously in the past few years while India has been lagging behind as Indians don't push themselves enough towards innovation, said Swamy. "The Chinese have also adopted some of the Sanskritic principles. They gave autonomy for basic research in Physical Sciences. And the Chinese have gone very far ahead. We were ahead of them till 2005. After that, the decline started and during Narendra Modi's period, the gap has widened," added Swamy.

'We need to unleash the capitalist engine in India'

It is going to be challenging for India to create operating systems like iOS, Android or Windows and also to create something like Facebook or Twitter, said Infosys' Co-founder **Kris Gopalakrishnan**. "It is going to be challenging because we need a new paradigm. We also need the marketing muscle and the investment dollars to make these into a global entity. I'm not saying that it can't happen, it is just difficult for us to do," Gopalakrishnan added. He was in conversation with Senior Journalist Kaveree Bamzai at the virtual ThinkEdu Conclave 2021.

Gopalakrishnan spoke about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) and what India can do to become a superpower in that sphere. "Firstly, we need to have sufficient capacity and capability in AI and ML — knowing that tech, how to use it, contributing to the development of the tech, the hardware infrastructure necessary to run the algorithms. As a nation, we are investing in it. Secondly, we generate huge amounts of data but it is not stored by Indian entities. It is collected and stored by entities outside the country. We need to figure out how this data is available to our researchers and start-ups to come up with new solutions. The government is looking at policy around data and localisation requirements," he said.

> We are starting to create unicorns and we believe that the number of unicorns will be 100 pretty soon and this year we are looking at 50
>
> Kris Gopalakrishnan, Axilor Ventures

Elaborating on a concept called a positive virtuous cycle and why India needs to create it, Gopalakrishnan explained, "Positive virtuous cycle means that we create new knowledge, innovative companies, scale them up, create wealth and then that wealth gets invested back into research. This is how Silicon Valley works, how capitalism works. We need to unleash that engine in India. We need to create a positive virtuous cycle of research, innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups and also motivate our youth to focus on these areas." He also stressed how the new National Education Policy (NEP) is headed towards that. "NEP is talking about problem-solving skills, creativity, multidisciplinary studies, transferable credits. All these are important changes to create the right skills, enable research and gives flexibility to students to take up subjects that interest them," he said.

Important to tell our story as it is: Alankrita Shrivastava

> Ask yourselves whether you have the emotional bandwidth... you should have some sense of conviction in what you are doing, talent can be honed, it's just hard to stick it out
>
> Alankrita Shrivastava, Filmmaker

For Indian filmmakers, there's already self-censorship, a conscious level of censorship where you know which country you are in, what you can do, thus the mind doesn't go there at all — you know you can't cross certain political, social boundaries, said **Alankrita Shrivastava**, Director of Netflix's new show *Bombay Begums*. "However, now with OTT platforms and streaming, there's a sense of opening up. Even 10 years ago, I wouldn't have thought of working on something like *Made in Heaven* where the lead protagonist is gay and we are delving into his sexual life. But it's important to tell our stories as they are but we have to be more subversive," the director added while speaking at the New Indian Express' ThinkEdu Conclave 2021 on Sunday along with Senior Journalist and author Kaveree Bamzai.

Speaking on how she ensures her women characters are diverse, the director added, "I have always wanted to explore women from a different class — it was an instinctive thing I wanted to do. I wanted my work to look into women who don't have the same economic opportunities, I wanted to explore how it is different for women who come from various economic backgrounds, harder to break off a lot of barriers in life. I have dealt with characters from different religions and it was not quite difficult as we all have had friends from a different faith when we were children. Caste is something I am learning more about right now, I am still educating myself more."

Responding to Kaveree on how her work has helped her overcome some inherent biases, Alankrita said that a lot of unlearning needs to be done. "I had this feeling of being trapped which is now getting undone. It is strange how women are happy with the leftover crumbs, that's how society has made us. Through my work, I have gradually realised that I too can have my place. I'm still at a place where I'm feeling happy with very little, but it is getting better with time," she explained.

Railways eyes freight share rising to 45% by 2050

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"WE have already transported 1,213 million tonnes this year, as opposed to 1210 mn tonnes last year, and this figure will increase as the year is not yet over," Sharma said. The dedicated freight portal, (https://www.fois.indianrail.gov.in/RailSAHAY), launched on January 6 this year, has received a tremendous response," CEO Suneet Sharma added.

A vision document has been readied which is part of National Rail Plan 2030. "The objective is to ensure our present freight share in the market of 27 per cent goes up to 45 per cent by 2050," he explained.

Railway scrap has also been generating considerable revenue. "A total of ₹4,420 crore was earned till March 27. We have a few more days for the year to conclude and will be able to touch ₹4,450 crore, our highest ever scrap sales."

A total of 100 stations across the country, where land can be monetised, have been identified for development. "This will ensure that Railways does not have to spend money on its own," he said. On the amount expected to be generated through commercialisation of assets, he said, "Our targets are quite steep. We have been told we have to earn ₹50,000-60,000 crore within the next five years."

The Railways had identified 87 land parcels across the country which are commercially viable. "They have already been tendered and we are looking at good margins from them," he said.

EPS breaks down over A Raja's remarks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai

"WHAT would become of women if the DMK wins the election?" Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami wondered aloud as he broke down while campaigning on Sunday. Speaking at the Thiruvottiur Assembly constituency here, he recalled how DMK's A Raja made derogatory remarks against his mother.

On the flip side, the AIADMK focuses on people's welfare, he asserted, highlighting how the State government provided food to eight lakh people per day amid the pandemic, and offered ₹5,500 to all rice-card holders on the occasion of Pongal, though this was not mentioned in the party's manifesto ahead of the previous election.

Besides, various welfare measures were implemented for fishermen, he asserted, and promised that if voted to power, his government would buy land and build houses for the homeless poor.

While campaigning at Kolathur Assembly constituency, from where DMK chief MK Stalin is contesting, Palaniswami said the Opposition leader frequents the region only when the elections are at hand. "If he really wanted to serve the people, he should have resolved their grievances when he was Mayor of the Chennai Corporation," he alleged, and said Stalin doesn't know the hardships of the common man or how to devise and implement welfare schemes.

AIADMK joint coordinator Edappadi K Palaniswami campaigns for the Royapuram Assembly constituency candidate, in Chennai on Sunday | PJAWAHAR

Commenting on the charges Stalin levelled against him, EPS said most were false complaints and Stalin should have verified them before handing them to the Governor. He further challenged the DMK chief to a debate on the allegations.

Palaniswami said the AIADMK would win the elections just as it won in 2011 and 2016.

Agencies hurling lies, says irate Kerala Speaker

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

A day after *TNIE* reported the disclosure of Swapna Suresh, key accused in the gold smuggling case, that Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan had invited her to a flat in the capital with "dirty intentions", Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala and Union minister Smriti Irani have sought the LDF government's response to it. However, the speaker, in a Facebook post, said the central investigation agencies' stooping too low and entering offensive details in a document as if they are part of the woman's statement is not right in a democratic country.

Chennithala on Sunday expressed shock at the turn of events and alleged that despite having strong evidence against the speaker, the central agencies are not taking further action. He said the state and the Central governments have resorted to the 'thief vs police' game.

'Will re-employ 6,000 people by March 31'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

GOVINDARAJ Jeyachandaran, Karnataka State head, United Nations Development Programme, said that in this particular endeavour, they were able to take advantage of Magic Bus India Foundation's large employer partnerships to take these opportunities to the farthest regions of the country to re-employ youths and adults who had lost their jobs during — and due to — the lockdown during the pandemic.

Arun Nalavadi, Executive Director, Sustainability and Partnerships, Magic Bus, said, "The programme is targeted at re-employing people in sustainable employment. By March 31, we would have placed over 6,000 people in jobs across India."

EXPRESS READ

AU hostels turn isolation centres

Visakhapatnam: The total number of Covid-19 cases in Andhra University Engineering College increased to 110 on Sunday. Five hostels were converted into quarantine centres and three into isolation blocks for boys. For girls, three hostels were converted into quarantine centres. ENS

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A. Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL Dam Division.,
(Irrigation Department) Narayanpur-585219 Tq: Shorapur,
Dist: Yadgir. State: Karnataka PH/Fax No-08444-229615

IFT. No:KBJNL/DDN/PB/AWP-2020-21/2124 Date: 25/03/2020

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ/ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಅಡಿ 2020–21 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಅನ್ವಯ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ Two Cover System ಮತ್ತು Single Cover System ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು Qualification criteria ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ 2121,2122 & 2123 ದಿನಾಂಕ 25.03.2021 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊಹರಾದ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೇಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	30.03.2021 ರಿಂದ 07.04.2021 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2	ಟೆಂಡರ್ Cover-I ತರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	09.04.2021 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
3	ಟೆಂಡರ್ Cover-II ತರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	12.04.2021 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಹೊಂದಿದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಾರಾಯಣಪೂರ.

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation Ltd. (KEPCO) invites eTenders for the **Supply of CHICK BOXES**. (A-Grade Kraft Paper) for the use of the Corporation. eTender No. 026/2020-21/KSPDC/CB. Last Date for Bid Submission 19.04.2021. For more details please logon to **www.kepco.co.in / www.kepconews.blogspot.com**

Sd/-
MD, KEPCO

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUTH SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA

TENDER NOTICE

NIT.No.610000775/ HPC/HP /APGENCO/2021

APGENCO invites tenders for the work of **"FIRE & ALLIED PERIL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR EACH PLOT OF 100MW CAPACITY PLANT EQUIPMENT AND ITS ACCESSORIES for four plots of (4 X 100MW) SOLAR POWER PROJECT LOCATED AT TALARICHERUVU(V),Tadipatri"** through APGENCO e-procurement. **Estimated value of works : Plot wise sum insured Values of the plant : Plot-1 : Rs.457,57,10,323/-, Plot-3: Rs.457,57,10,323/-, Plot-4 : Rs.417,23,20,083/-, Plot-5 : Rs.434,33,83,292/-.** Tender Schedule available Time & Date : From **30.03.2021** on **15:00** Hrs. Bid Submission Closing Date & Time : Up to **17:00** Hrs on **20.04.2021**. For further details visit website: **www.apgenco.gov.in** or **https://etender.apgenco.gov.in**

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)

Date: 28/03/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Work of Collection of User fee from Toll plazas near Kurki Village and Hanne (Javoor) Village on Davanagere-Santhebennur-Chennagiri-Birur road in SH-76 road stretch length 105.63 Km is awarded to Sri.N.C.Ravimokshith M/s Bharathi Constructions Hassan. The official notification for Collection of User fee is published in Karnataka Gazette Notification No.PWD/E-138/EAP/2020, Bengaluru dated:15-10-2020. It is brought to the notice of the Public, that the agency will be commencing Collection of User fee from 31-03-2021 for different types of vehicles at the rates at the specified below:

Davanagere to Chennagiri (Km 0.00-Km 53.65)

Sl No	Category of Vehicle	Toll Rate for single trip (in Rs)	Toll rate for Maximum 2way journeys (in Rs)	Monthly Pass (in Rs)
1	Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	35.0	50.0	1145.0
2	Light Commercial Vehicle, light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	55.0	85.0	1845.0
3	Bus or Commercial Vehicle (Two axle)	115.0	175.0	3870.0
4	Bus or Commercial Vehicle (Three axle)	120.0	175.0	3940.0
5	Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (four or six axles)	180.0	275.0	6065.0
6	Over-sized vehicles (seven or more axles)	220.0	330.0	7385.0

Chennagiri to Beeruru (Km 53.65-Km 105.63)

Sl No	Category of Vehicle	Toll Rate for single trip (in Rs)	Toll rate for Maximum 2way journeys (in Rs)	Monthly Pass (in Rs)
1	Car, Jeep, Van or Light Motor Vehicle	35.0	50.0	1105.0
2	Light Commercial Vehicle, light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	55.0	80.0	1790.0
3	Bus or Commercial Vehicle (Two axle)	110.0	170.0	3745.0
4	Bus or Commercial Vehicle (Three axle)	115.0	170.0	3815.0
5	Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment (EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (four or six axles)	175.0	265.0	5875.0
6	Over-sized vehicles (seven or more axles)	215.0	320.0	7155.0

The rate of monthly pass for local motorized traffic is Rs.210/- (Rupees Two Hundred Ten Only) for the year 2020-21 whcih is subject to revision every year as per the provision.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
KRDCL Project Office,
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EDITORIAL

"The beginnings of Hindu temple architecture in South India are best traced in the temple-complex at Aihole and its neighbourhood

K A Nilakanta Sastri

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

CLEAR ROAD MAP NEEDED FOR DITHERING PRIVATISATION PLANS

Talk of the government disinvesting its stake in public sector units (PSUs) is the flavour of the season once again. The tone was set by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. In her Budget speech on February 1, she said a renewed privatisation process will garner ₹1.75 lakh crore to help kickstart the economy. Soon after, about a month ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at a webinar on privatisation, once again reiterated his famous words that 'the government has no business to be in business' and his administration is committed to privatising all PSUs barring the four strategic sectors. Echoing the sentiment, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das too has confirmed he is in discussion with the government to line up the next round of state-owned banks to be privatised.

On the ground though, there seems to be a wide chasm between words and action. Take the case of Air India. Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri announced a couple of days ago that Air India's sell-off would be completed by May-end this year. 'The choice is between disinvesting and closing down', since the airline had run up an unassailable debt of ₹60,000 crore, he said. Brave words. This is about the fourth attempt by the government since 2018 to rid itself of Air India; each round so far has been a failure because of a lack of intent and clarity of the exercise.

It is true there is little support for the old Nehruvian position that sees the public sector as the 'commanding heights' of the economy and there is little stomach for tolerating the continuing losses and inefficiency of many PSUs. However, despite the government repeatedly reiterating that it is committed to privatising non-core sector PSUs, there has been little progress. There is also very little clarity on which PSUs in 'strategic' sectors will continue to be protected. Coal mining, oil exploration and distribution, and banking are not only crucial sectors that cannot be subject to a casual privatisation process, but also provide employment to millions of people. The government owes it to the nation to present a fine-tuned policy and a road map of its privatisation plans.

HAS THE BIG CAT GOT ODISHA GOVT'S TONGUE?

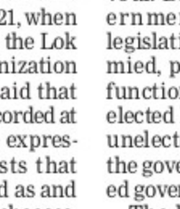
Last Tuesday, India's first ever inter-state tiger translocation programme officially went kaput. Of the big cat pair brought from Madhya Pradesh in 2018, the female Sundari was tranquilised, caged and sent back home. The male had ended up in a snare two years ago in Satkosia, one of Odisha's two notified tiger reserves. After the National Tiger Conservation Authority officially suspended the much-hyped project in 2019, the Madhya Pradesh HC had directed that the tigress be brought back and rewilded. As things stand now, Sundari has been released into a large enclosure in Ghorela in Kanha National Park.

The pair had been brought in to help repopulate tigers in Satkosia, where the feline population had crashed just about a decade after it was notified as a tiger reserve. Such was the lack of interest in wildlife conservation that Odisha's government back then did not even bother to find out the reasons behind Satkosia losing its tigers at an alarming pace. Things have not changed much. For a tiger repopulation project of such magnitude, there was no outrage in the government when it failed in inglorious fashion within months of being launched in 2018. Not that there is any now.

The failure of the Satkosia repopulation project speaks volumes of the Odisha forest department's inability to evolve when many states have created successful tiger conservation models and integrated tourism and development to boost the economy. When the project was planned, Odisha needed to get its act together—clear human habitations from the reserve, take the local community into confidence and install a scientific monitoring system. None of it was in place as conflict with local settlements became the biggest problem. Poor protection saw male tiger Mahavir poached even under surveillance. The failure in such a high-profile project notwithstanding, little has changed. Odisha is probably among the few tiger-bearing states not to have added a tiger reserve in 10 years. One in Sunabeda, a tiger reserve proposed in Nuapada district, is awaiting notification for a decade. This poor state of affairs in the forest department does not do justice to CM Naveen Patnaik, known to be a wildlife enthusiast.

The Union government has been working at reducing the elected representatives in Union Territories to ciphers. Its latest target is the National Capital Territory of Delhi

BREAKING BACKBONE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS



KAPIL SIBAL

Senior lawyer, Congress leader and member of Rajya Sabha

AMIT BANDRE

The Modi juggernaut brooks no opposition. The history of India has seldom witnessed such a deliberate dismantling of democratic structures along with silencing voices of dissent as seen under this dispensation. Even worse is the manner in which elected representatives in Union Territories are sought to be paralysed by means that are legally suspect and morally bankrupt.

While we can debate the near abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, converting the state of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories (2019), what is of great concern is that even after one-and-a-half years, statehood has not been restored. The assurance in this regard made by the Union home minister was subject to a caveat: When the situation in J&K gets normal. That statehood hasn't been restored is an admission that the normalcy is yet to return. The home minister, on 13 February 2021, when replying to a discussion in the Lok Sabha on the J&K Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2021, said that statehood to J&K will be accorded at an appropriate time. The expression 'appropriate' suggests that such status will be granted as and when the home minister so chooses. This may not happen in the near future till such time the BJP becomes a force to reckon with in J&K through means that are not entirely 'kosher'. Till that time, people's aspirations cannot be expressed through their elected representatives in the legislative Assembly.

The underlying democratic principle is that the fate of millions of people in Union Territories be left to their elected representatives and not in the hands of a Lt Governor or an Administrator acting at the behest of the Union. Goa, once a Union Territory, was granted statehood in 1987. Delhi remained a Union Territory without a legislature till 1993. That democratic principle is being reversed and this government now wishes to impose the newly crafted Delhi model on J&K.

We now know what that Delhi model will be. The brazen manner in which the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2021 got legislative sanction is evidence of its flavour. Both the powers of the government in Delhi and of its legislative Assembly have been stymied, paralysing their legitimate functioning. A government duly elected has been supplanted by an unelected Lt Governor. He is now the government and the duly elected government his supplicants.

The law now provides that the term 'government' referred to in any law made by the Delhi Legislative Assembly will mean the Lt Governor. In many instances, the law provides that the opinion of the Lt Governor be obtained before taking any executive action on the decision of the minister or even the council of ministers. In a democratic polity, it is unthinkable that a nominee of the Union will decide whether or not the decisions of a duly elected government will be acted upon. What is even worse is that the rules of procedure of the Assembly by virtue of amendment to Section 33 of the principal Act mandate that such rules be consistent with the rules of procedure and conduct of business in the Lok Sabha. This destroys the autonomy of the Assembly to frame its own rules of procedure, anathema to any democratic set-up. In fact, the amended law prohibits the legislative Assembly or its committees to consider matters of day-to-day administration of the NCT of Delhi and disentitles them to conduct any enquiry in relation to the administrative decisions taken. Any existing rules providing for such enquiry are to be declared void. Clearly, the elected government has, through a process of law, become an adjunct of the Lt Governor, who symbolises the government. Now, the Lt. Governor's opinion is mandatory on certain matters before taking any executive action under any law enforced in the NCT of Delhi. Thus, the Lt Governor's opinion would be needed before any decision by the Delhi Cabinet on certain matters is implemented. The amended law is in the teeth of the decision of the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court that, in interpreting the proviso to Art. 239(AA) (4), held that the Lt Governor will act under it only in exceptional circumstances.

> The powers of the government in Delhi and of its legislative Assembly have been stymied, paralysing their legitimate functioning. A government duly elected has been supplanted by an unelected Lt Governor

We saw a similar pattern in the case of Puducherry (2016), where the Lt Governor was routinely overturning administrative orders, bypassing the government and directly communicating with the bureaucrats on WhatsApp. The then Lt Governor violated every established norm and tradition to swear in three defeated BJP candidates in the dead of night on 4 July 2017, who despite having lost their deposits, were nominated by the Union as MLAs. These nominations were engineered to help destabilise and bring down the government.

The Lt Governor also interfered with the decision of the government to increase rice allocations under the Universal Rice Supply Scheme. Several other people-centric decisions were not allowed to be implemented with the intent to thwart the legitimate activities of an elected government. Though on 16 February 2021, the Lt Governor was removed and replaced, the BJP had achieved its objective of throwing out the Congress-DMK government. The message is clear: Break the backbone of democratic institutions, devise all means, fair or foul, to make governments fall in opposition-ruled states.

The manner in which elected representatives in Union Territories have been reduced to ciphers is evident from the manner in which the Union government has interfered both in Delhi and Puducherry. In the state of Jammu & Kashmir, there is little hope for the people to be represented and their voices heard. Converting Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh into Union Territories was accomplished by a sleight of hand. To get statehood back appears to be a dream that may not be realised for long.

From laws targeting 'love jihad' in BJP-ruled states to so-called 'land jihad' in Assam, it is 'undemocratic jihad' in the rest of India that is worrisome.

(Tweets @KapilSibal)

UNIQUE CAVE TEMPLE IN LAB OF INDIAN ARCHITECTURE

R H KULKARNI

Professor, Dept of Art History, College of Fine Arts, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath

The Ravanphadi Cave Temple at Aihole is a unique rock-cut shrine in Badami Chalukya art and architecture. Nested in a large rock boulder, it has an entrance hall, *garbhagriha* and side chambers. The monument has been the subject of study and debate for many scholars since the last century. Situated on the northeastern corner of the village of Aihole (Aryapura) in Hunagund taluk of Karnataka's Bagalkot district, the cave temple faces the western direction with a large open space in the front.

Aihole is situated on the banks of the Malaprabha river and has over 120 monuments dating back to the 6th-10th century CE. It has been praised as the "laboratory of Indian architecture" by many scholars. True to its name, the village has temples with varied styles. Aihole has a local myth associated with Parashurama, who is believed to have washed his axe in the river after defeating the Kshatriyas. The antiquity of the place goes back to pre-historic and Megalithic times. Even today, Megalithic dolmens may be seen atop the Meguti hill in the village.

The importance of the Ravanphadi rock-cut shrine lies in its unique style and homogenous sculptural groups. Its large entrance, which directly leads to the hall, is flanked by the figures of Shankha Nidhi and Padma Nidhi in seated postures. Two *dwarapalas* dressed like *Yavanas* are found on either side. The main hall is created like a sculptural gallery. It has two side shrines with a central open hall. The sculptures are: Ardhanari Siva, Sapta Matrika along with the Siva family (in the side shrine), *dwarapalas*, Harihara and Gangavatarana. The side walls of the *garbhagriha* has Varaha with Bhudevi and Durga Mahishamardini. The other side shrine is incomplete. Scholars have varied views regarding the date of this cave temple. However, it may be ascribed to 550-75 CE based on the style and features of the sculptures.

Among the sculptures at Ravanphadi, a few have been depicted possibly for the first time in entire peninsular India. The Matrika group carved along with the Siva-Nataraja family is a unique narration. Usually, Matrika sculptures are carved with Ganesha and Siva as Vinadhara, and even Veerabhadra and Bhairava in later periods. Here, the artist has visualised a new sculptural composition depicting the entire Siva family. The sculptures are carved on the C-shaped wall of the *upavarnaka* (side shrine). All the images in this group are poised in dance postures. Siva as Nataraja has 10 arms that are circularly spread, creating a cosmic feel. Parvati is carved on his left while there are small figures of Ganesha on Siva's right and Skandha on the other side. The Matrika sculptures in their beautifully poised postures are carved in order. They are: Brahmani, Maheshwari, Kaumari and Vaishnavi to the right of the Siva family, and Varahi, Indrani and Chamunda to the left. The sculptures have slender physiognomy, with long *kiritas* and are standing with beautifully glanced hand gestures. One can notice that though the images have no vehicles (*vahanas*), they are easily identifiable as they are set in sequential order; their iconographical and physiological details help in identification. Their overall depiction make them unique in the Matrika genre.

Varaha and Durga Mahishamardini are also noteworthy sculptural examples. They are carved on side walls of the *garbhagriha*. Varaha is depicted as carrying a seated Bhudevi on his left elbow, her feet supported by his other hand. His right hand rests on her waist while the upper right has the *chakra*. Interestingly, the *shankha* is carved right behind Bhudevi. In the sculpture of Durga Mahishamardini, the composition of Devi gives a new dimension to the subject. Her left knee is deeply bent and pressed into the neck of demon Mahisha, while his face is held in Devi's left hand and bent upward. In her circularly spread arms, Devi holds various attributes. She is victoriously standing and subduing the demon; her *vahana,* the lion, is anxiously looking at the demon. The Siva linga is carved with the *peetha* in the *garbhagriha* in stone in situ.

Another unique depiction of sculpture in this cave temple is the *Gangavatarana* episode. *Gangavatarana* or Bhagiratha's penance has been a popular subject employed in delineation of sculptures by the artists of peninsular India. The Ravanphadi cave temple example of the theme is special in its composition and mode of depiction. The story of Bhagiratha has been narrated vividly in *Puranic* lore and *Padma Purana* has an elaborate narration. The descent of River Ganga and the related story of the penance is the subject. The *Gangavatarana* in Ravanphadi is depicted synoptically. The theme is artistically carved in a limited space of the wall. Siva, as the protagonist, is standing in *samabhanga*, while on his right side, the figure of Bhagiratha with his emaciated physique is standing in the penance posture. Parvati, carved on Siva's left, is in a rhythmic posture. The most interesting and unique aspect of the sculptural narration is the mode of release of Ganga. Siva as Gangadhara, with both hands, holds the hair locks and is releasing Ganga (water) drop by drop. On the upper register of the sculpture, three female figures are shown as emerging and bowing down to the Siva. They may be identified as River Goddesses.

The Ravanphadi cave temple, with its simple spatial arrangement and interesting sculptures, transforms lore into visual narration with unique features. The beautiful Badami Chalukya images serve as the precursors to many later sculptures.

(rhkulkarniarthistory@gmail.com)

Matrika group carved along with the Siva-Nataraja family in the Ravanphadi rock-cut shrine in Karnataka's Aihole; *Gangavatarana* episode in the same Badami Chalukya cave temple

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

A new low for the junta

It is appalling that Myanmar's trigger-happy military has gone on a killing spree, gunning down protesters with impunity. This marks a new low for the country's junta.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Horrific Myanmar killings

The latest killings of over 90 protesters by Myanmar's military show that the regime is willing to go to any lengths to discourage people from taking part in the protests. It's time the international community took some serious action.

Bijumon P N, Idukki

Further fuel price hikes?

The recent blockage of the Suez Canal is a cause of great anxiety to India as oil ships will be unable to get to the nation. This has raised fear of fuel prices being further aggravated.

B V Thampi, Pattom

High voter turnout good

The first phase of polls in both Assam and West Bengal recording a high voter turnout clearly shows that there is the awareness that the right candidate can be chosen if more votes are polled. This is a welcome trend.

Rajakumar Arulanandham, Palayamkottai

Name doesn't matter

This is with reference to *'India that is Bharat.' Are we sure?* (Mar 28). For millions of hungry countrymen, it doesn't matter what the country is called. It will be both once they start getting at least two square meals a day.

C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Inanities take precedence

The obsession towards changing names has been kind of a fetish with the ruling dispensation. What is annoying is that these inanities take precedence over many other vital matters.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

CM's wings pruned

This is with reference to *BJP must get maximum leaders, not minimise Delhi* (Mar 28). Even a layman's view about Delhi being essentially ruled by an unelected Lt Governor is that the CM's wings are pruned too much.

K Nehru Patnaik, Visakhapatnam

Destabilising elected govt

While the BJP was in the opposition, it always demanded more autonomy for Delhi. But as it is not in power now, it seems to be using all means to destabilise the elected government.

N Nagarajan, Secunderabad

Gold mine of raw talent

This is with reference to *Unicorns and cricket lessons for politicos* (Mar 28). Hope the government realises that it is sitting on a gold mine of raw talent that just needs to be incentivised through appropriate policy changes.

R Sriramprasad, Bengaluru

Privatising PSUs good

The CAG report about more than half of Telangana's PSUs being in the red shows that the Centre's decision to privatise them is good. It cannot indefinitely pump taxpayers' money into unviable units.

K R Srinivasan, Secunderabad

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rajnath Singh @rajnathsingh
We have done what we promised. In 1951 we said we will repeal Article 370 and we did that. If we promised about construction of Ram Mandir, Ram Mandir is being built

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Due to the election, the central government has made petrol-diesel cheaper by 17/18 paise per liter. What will you do with this amount of savings?

Tejashwi Yadav @yadavtejashwi
People are determined to root out corrupt, biased, anti poor and anti tea garden labourers BJP's double engine govt in Assam

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2021 DECIDE

I am very happy to hear from my friends that Mahajot has swept the first phase. The lowest figure I am hearing from anyone is 30 seats —Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, Assam AIUDF

Amit Shah has a consistent record when it comes to predicting poll results. Mind games won't work, Mo-Sha. Try your seat prediction stunts at the Gujarat gymkhana. This is Bengal —Derek O'Brien, Bengal TMC

The grapevine suggests that the outcome from phase 1 constituencies may exceed BJP's initial calculation. We could be looking at BJP winning 26 of the 30 seats —Swapan Dasgupta, Bengal BJP

Shah predicts 26 of 30 seats in Bengal

Mocking BJP, Mamata says verdict will be known after votes are counted; Trinamool says mind games won't work

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence in New Delhi; (R) Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee at a rally in Nandigram | PARVEEN NEGI/PTI

THANKING voters and election officials for violence-free polling in the first phase of elections in West Bengal and Assam, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday predicted a sweeping victory for the BJP. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee scoffed at the prediction and said that the people's verdict will be known after votes are counted. Her party said the BJP's mind games will not work.

Speaking at a press conference at his New Delhi residence, Shah claimed the BJP would win 26 of the 30 constituencies which went to polls in West Bengal on Saturday. In Assam, Shah said it would be 37 out of 47. He said violence-free polling and big voter turnouts are indicators that the saffron party will win.

"This is the first election in West Bengal where there's no report of political killings or bomb blasts. There is no case of re-polling at any booth. This is a good sign. Women have also voted in an overwhelming manner," said Shah.

Banerjee countered by saying how could one predict at this stage and asked mockingly if the home minister had left the four remaining seats for the Congress-Left-ISF combine. "Why didn't he say the BJP will win all 30?"

Shah had predicted the BJP's wins in previous Assembly and Lok Sabha elections also. This is seen within the party as a strategy to boost the morale of party workers.

Shah said there were positive signs for BJP in the way the people of West Bengal and Assam voted in the first phase. "In West Bengal, people are fed up with the politics of appeasement of the TMC. They have responded constructively to the welfare and development plank of the BJP in the state," said Shah, reiterating that BJP would go past its target of 200 seats in West Bengal, where elections will be held over eight phases from March 27 to April 29 in 294 Assembly seats.

On leaked conversations between BJP and Trinamool Congress leaders, Shah said it was undemocratic that there are cases of tapping of phones when the model code of conduct is in force in the state.

10

People were arrested for being involved in incidents of violence during the first phase of polling in Bengal

84.13

Voting percentage in the first phase of West Bengal polls, according to an updated report of the EC

Bombs, firearms seized in Bengal

Canning (WB): A large number of crude bombs and several country-made firearms were seized in different poll-bound areas in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, police said on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, police personnel seized 48 crude bombs near a water body in Kathipota village in Narendrapur police station area on Sunday, an officer said. The crude bombs were defused and further investigation is underway, he said. An arms factory was also busted in Merigunj village in Kultali police station area late on Saturday night, another officer said.

Mitra plays Holi with BJP nominees

Kolkata: Sinking political differences, TMC candidate Madan Mitra on Sunday celebrated Holi with three actors-turned-BJP nominees on board a vessel on river Hooghly. Mitra, the TMC candidate from Kamarhati constituency, celebrated with Payel Sarkar, Srabonti Chatterjee and Tanushree Chakraborty, who are contesting the polls on BJP tickets from Behala East and Behala West seats and Howrah's Shyampur respectively. Singing 'Khelbo Holi rong debona...', Mitra said: "They are my friends. We have known each other for many years. There shouldn't be any politics on Holi."

Pilot: Want to free Assam from BJP

Silchar/Karimganj: Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Sunday claimed that the Assembly election in Assam is a struggle to save the people of the state from the "misrule" of the BJP. The BJP government never stood by the people during the hour of crisis, Pilot alleged while addressing two election meetings at Silchar and Karimganj in Barak Valley region. "We are not fighting to come to power, but to save the people of Assam from the misrule of the BJP," he said. The BJP is dividing people on religious lines and they need to remain united in Assam and India, he said.

NIA arrests Trinamool's Mahato for Rajdhani Exp hijacking in 2009

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

CHHATRADHAR Mahato, posterboy of the Lalgarh movement backed by Maoists in 2008-2011 and recently inducted in Trinamool Congress's state committee, was arrested by the NIA in the wee hours on Sunday. Sources in the agency said he was arrested in connection with the case of hijacking Rajdhani Express in 2009.

The arrest came hours after the state witnessed the first phase of elections on Saturday. Mahato, who is in his late fifties, cast his vote after 11 years. He was arrested during the Left Front regime and spent over a decade behind bars.

Chhatradhar Mahato at Bankshall Court in Kolkata on Sunday | BIBHASH LODH

Sources in NIA said around 40 members of the agency went to Lalgarh to arrest Mahato. He was produced in a special NIA court and remanded to two days NIA's custody. He will be produced before the NIA special court in Kolkata on Tuesday.

The former spokesperson of People's Committee Against Police Atrocities (PCAPA), an organisation backed my Maoists, Mahato was picked up from his house in Lalgarh when he and his family members were sleeping.

"They broke open the door and entered the house. We all were sleeping. They took away our mobile phones and picked him up. Initially, we had no clue whether they were policemen or BJP supporters," said Mahato's wife Niyoti.

Mahato was arrested in 2009 under UAPA and sentenced to life imprisonment in a murder case by a lower court. Kolkata High Court acquitted him in 2019. "Though he is a TMC leader now, Mahato's arrest is politically motivated. What prompted the NIA to suddenly swing into action? What kind of serious evidence did they find that he had to be arrested in a case registered 12 years ago," said Ranjit Sur of the Association for Protection of Democratic Rights.

On October 27, 2009, PCAPA members had blocked the Delhi-bound Rajdhani Express in Bansthala in West Bengal's Jhargram district demanding Mahato's release after he was arrested on September 26 that year.

FOR ONE GLIMPSE

Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma meets his supporters during an election campaign rally in Mazbat on Sunday | PTI

Assam politics revolves around ethnicities, nationalism

CONTINUED FROM P1

THE autonomous council was formed in 1995 to meet the political aspirations of the Rabhas, who are estimated to number six lakh. But dissatisfied with its functioning, the community formed the Rabha Hasong Joint Movement Committee to spearhead the Sixth Schedule demand. Lending it support is the All-Rabha Students' Union.

Their effort paid off partially in May 2020 when the Assam cabinet decided to include the council in the Sixth Schedule. It now awaits Central action as Parliament has to pass a bill to give it effect. "The Assam government has not yet sent the proposal to Delhi," said ARSU president Nripen Khanda in Dudhnoi, Goalpara district. "We are supporting the BJP in this hope," Khanda added.

Biswas's citizenship hopes for his community and Khanda's aspirations for his people capture the competing and often conflicting demands in Assam's complex political canvas. Most, if not all, of these demands are identity-based, each with their own brand of ethnic, linguistic, cultural, tribal and religious political aggregation.

COMPETING IDENTITIES

ST STATUS DEMAND	STATEHOOD DEMAND
Tai-Ahom, Moran, Motok, Chutia, tea tribes and Koch-Rajbongshis have been demanding Scheduled Tribe status. The Centre had approved the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019, and introduced a Bill in the Rajya Sabha on January 9, 2019 but it a hit roadblock as the existing STs opposed it	The Autonomous State Demand Committee is spearheading a statehood movement for the Karbis in Karbi Anglong region. Similarly, the Dimasa tribes want a 'Dimaland' by carving out parts of Assam and Nagaland

Assam's politics, in fact, revolves around managing and accommodating these opposing ethnicities and nationalisms. "It's all about managing these diversities," said Lawrence Islary, a candidate in Kokrajhar from the United People's Party Liberal, the BJP' Bodo ally. "The Congress did not do anything for the Bodos, they could not even implement the Bodo Accord of 2003 properly because of which a new one had to be signed last year," Islary said.

The BJP has so far deftly steered its way around this community and ethnically-strewn political road, meeting some demands while not pandering to all. For instance, the tea workers, who came largely from Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh decades back and who have a decisive say in 40 of the 126 constituencies in Assam. Although it has failed to keep its 2016 election promise of raising the daily wage of workers from around ₹100 during the Congress government to ₹315, the Sarabanda Sonowal government has developed roads inside tea gardens, built schools and is giving free education up to post graduation in government-run institutions.

The Rabhas have been promised the Sixth Schedule while the Koch-Rajbongshis, Motoks and Morans, three communities who have been agitating for Scheduled Tribe status, have been given autonomous councils to blunt their movement.

The BJP also dumped the discredited Bodo People's Front, its Bodo ally in 2016, and tied up with the UPPL. The BPF, particularly its leader Hagrama Mohiliary, has been accused of massive corruption and is getting increasingly unpopular.

But there is also a section which believes the BJP is trying to subsume linguistic, cultural and ethnic sub-nationalisms with Hindu nationalism. "They have already polarised the population of Assam in the name of religion," said Lurinjyoti Gogoi, a former All-Assam Students' Union general secretary who has formed a new party, the Asom Jatiya Parishad, and is contesting the elections.

"The BJP is losing hold over the Assamese Hindus and that is why they are playing the Hindu card. But this will not succeed," said Satyakam Borthakur of Dibrugarh University.

ASSAM

Cong writes to EC against BJP ads in dailies

GUWAHATI: The Congress has lodged a complaint with the Election Commission demanding action after a BJP advertisement in local dailies allegedly suggested the party's victory in all seats of upper Assam, which had the first phase of polls on Saturday. The Congress says this is in violation of model code of conduct.

"I, on behalf of the legal department of Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) as well as the APCC, would like to inform you that the BJP, after conclusion of polling in the first phase yesterday, published an advertisement today (Sunday) in several newspapers, certifying its performance," Niran Borah, chairman of Congress's legal department, wrote to Assam's Chief Electoral Officer Nitin Khade.

"The ad reflects BJP's symbol with the endorsement 'the well-wishers and the workers of BJP are delighted' and 'BJP ensures its victory in all constituencies of Upper Assam'. The advertisement has been published in the form of a news report for canvassing in favour of BJP to influence and deceive the public/voters for the remaining two phases of polls across the state," he added.

The Congress sought action against the BJP and the newspapers in question for publishing the advertisement. *ENS*

Two cities take up study on reinfections

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

AMID an exponential surge of Covid-19 cases in the country, two cities — Chennai and Pune — that witnessed a high case burden last year and are facing resurgence, have undertaken studies to assess whether people with a history of infection are also getting reinfections.

Authorities have decided to look for IgG antibodies in newly infected people in the two cities, and this will be the first such exercise in the country. The presence of IgG antibodies against SARS CoV 2 in infected individuals will confirm the history of exposure to the virus earlier.

This antibody typically appears nearly 14 days after exposure to the virus and lasts for several months. While in Chennai, the exercise is being carried out by the National Institute of Epidemiology under the ICMR, in collaboration with the city administration, in Pune, the city corporation is taking the help of medical and health research institutes.

A healthcare worker takes swab sample of a passenger at Patna Junction | PTI

On Sunday, Pune reported 4,625 fresh cases and remained the worst-affected city in the country. It has raised concerns that apart from the lack of Covid appropriate behaviour, mutants of the virus could have a role to play, that could also mean that the people who have been infected before in cities with high case burdens may be falling prey to the changed pathogen. "Through this study, we want to understand whether the evidence so far that reinfection is very rare in people once exposed to SARS CoV 2 still holds true or the pandemic dynamics are changing," said an official involved with the project in Chennai.

J P Muliyil, a senior epidemiologist who is also part of an ICMR group on disease surveillance and epidemiology, said as far as his understanding goes, it's the people not having been exposed before are catching infection now and seem to be driving the pandemic.

"People have become a bit lax now due to the fatigue factor and assurance by the arrival of Covid-19 vaccines and it's very humane," he said.

"However, if studies do show reinfections in significant numbers of people—which I don't think is likely—it could be a worrying scenario. Therefore, a monitoring study like this one is crucial.

NEW MILESTONE AS INDIA'S VACCINATION COUNT CROSSES 6 CR

India on Saturday touched a significant milestone in its Covid-19 vaccination drive. The number of people who have taken the jabs crossed the six crore-mark. In a 24-hour period, 21,54,170 vaccine doses were administered which took the total to 6,02,69,782, according to the Health Ministry data. The data shows 5,14,41,436 people have received their first doses across the country. Of them, 20,09,805 received their first dose in the last 24 hours. Also, 1,44,365 received their second dose on the day, taking this tally to 88,28,346. Maharashtra, which is the worst hit state in the country with the maximum Covid-19 caseload, is also leading the vaccination drive, having administered a total of 57,26,036 doses. In the state, 50,04,331 people have received their first dose, while 7,21,705 have completed their two-dose schedule.

Strategic road infrastructure through Myanmar to ramp up Act East Policy

MAYANK SINGH @Zorinpui (Mizoram)

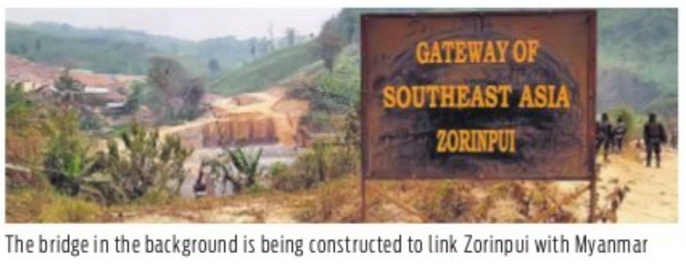
KEEPING an eye on strategic interests, the Indian government has mobilised its strategic road infrastructure to Myanmar through Mizoram aiming to boost India's Act East Policy even while disturbance prevails along the Indo-Myanmar borders, with refugees trickling in.

Brigadier Digvijay Singh, Commandant of 23 Sector Assam Rifles, said: "The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport (KMMTTP) is progressing at a fast pace without any hindrance from the Arakan Army. It will have a huge impact on the development of south Mizoram." Colonel Bejoy R Commandant of the Assam Rifles battalion at Lunglei, said: "The road route will have 33 bridges, of which eight are on the Indian side. Work on seven is in advanced stages." The area linking India and Myanmar with a bridge is under his unit.

All these will be Class 70 bridges. This means they will bear a load of 70 tonnes. Military machines like T-90 tanks, surface-to-air missiles and infantry combat vehicles can easily be transported.

Situation along the borders has been tense of late with refugees entering India since February 1. The 23 Sector is entrusted with the onus of border management with Myanmar.

The strategic project will link West Bengal's Haldia port with Sittwe port in Myanmar. It will also connect Sittwe port with Paletwa in Myanmar via river Kaladan and then from Paletwa by road to Mizoram's Lawngtlai. It would reduce distance by about 1,000 km and time by four days. "I want to draw attention of the Centre to the development of locals. We want more of them in the Army. I hope the government not only concentrate on international strategic policies but also develop locals," said Joseph Lalhmingthanga, secretary of Young Lai Association.



The bridge in the background is being constructed to link Zorinpui with Myanmar

FLOWER HOLI

Seers of Haridwar will celebrate Holi this year using flower petals due to the pandemic. This is a departure from the age-old tradition of embracing and painting each other's face with colours

45 TEST

+VE AT IIM-AHMEDABAD IN LAST TWO WEEKS

INDIA	Max	Min	INDIA	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	24	Mumbai	33	27
Bhopal	40	24	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	39	22	Patna	39	21
Amritsar	33	17	Lucknow	38	24
Chennai	35	26	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	37	28	Imphal	32	13
Srinagar	22	06	Chandigarh	40	21

Appraisal of infra projects peaks in 3 years

Lockdown didn't affect the process; some members complained of less time for scrutiny

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

WHEN the country was locked down last year, the environment ministry's expert appraisal committee (EAC) worked overtime to consider infrastructure projects. It deliberated on 837 proposals for approval, the highest in three years.

According to data collated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the committee considered 837 project proposals in 2020 and approved 439. One was rejected. The maximum projects approved were in Gujarat, followed by Delhi and Maharashtra.

Keeping in view the pandemic, EAC meetings were held virtually from last April. By May, around 200 projects were considered and some panel members remarked that the time given to them to scrutinise the projects was less than adequate.

In April, the EAC on infrastructure cleared the proposal for construction of the new Parliament building. New terms of reference for the Centre's ambitious ₹13,450 crore Central Vista project were approved last year. Also approved were several policy decisions to expedite project clearances.

The EAC in mining, infrastructure, thermal power, hydroelectric and projects in coastal regulation zones had considered 822 and 798 projects in 2019 and 2018. It approved 466 and 436, while three and nine were rejected in those years, respectively.

Responding to a question in Rajya Sabha if the clearances were conducted virtually without site visits and inspections during lockdown, the ministry clarified that site visits were carried out by sub-committees and if required, by the EAC. But it did not provide any data on number of projects where site visits were conducted before they were recommended.

In 2020, the ministry had issued a directive mandating the EAC to meet "at least twice every month to cut down the time for environment clearances". The ministry said approval of projects continues to be on the basis of appraisal of documents (Environment Impact Assessment and Environment Management Plan reports) and that documents are prepared by the project proponents on the basis of professional advice, baseline information collected during field study and public consultation.

It further said the project proponents are required to submit all the requisite clarification/explanation before approval.

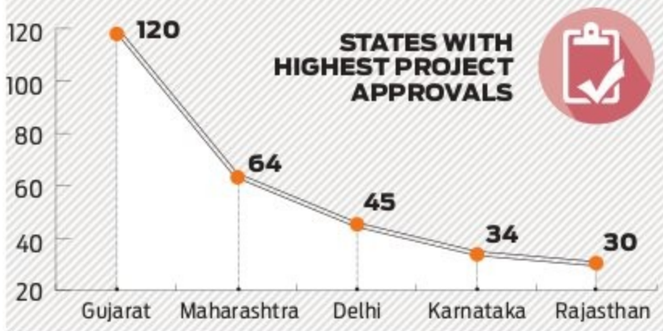
Activists raise doubts

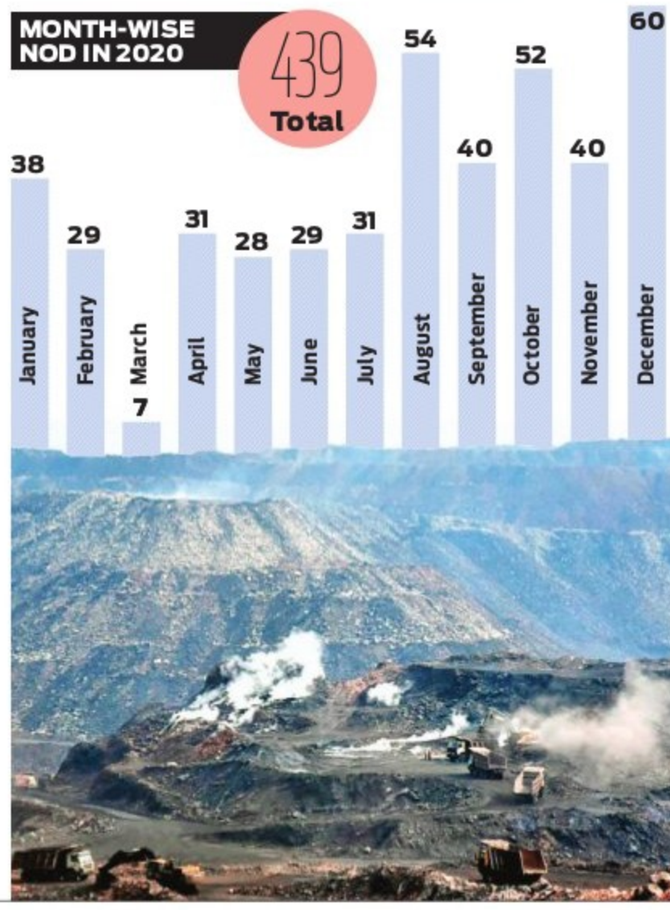
Environmental experts have questioned the ministry over the appointment of EAC members in certain sectors in 2020, as some members either had conflict of interest or didn't have enough expertise

'NATURAL' DELIBERATIONS

The expert appraisal committee (EAC) considered 837 project proposals in 2020 and approved 439. The maximum projects approved were in Gujarat, followed by Delhi and Maharashtra

Year	Projects approved	Rejected	EAC proposal deliberated
2018	436	9	798
2019	466	3	822
2020	439	1	837





Modernisation of farming sector need of the hour, says PM Modi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AS farmers continue their protest over the contentious farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday said modernisation in the agriculture sector was the need of the hour and was imperative for creating more employment in the field.

"It is already late. We have already lost a lot of time. Adopting new alternatives and innovations, along with traditional farming, are equally important to create new opportunities for employment in the agriculture sector and to increase the income of farmers. The country has experienced it during the white revolution," the PM said during the 75th edition of his monthly radio broadcast, *Mann Ki Baat*.

Modi also cited the examples of Banaskantha in Gujarat and Yamunanagar in Haryana, where farmers have taken to bee farming and increased their income.

The call comes as farmers have been sitting on protest at Delhi borders since November demanding withdrawal of the three farm laws. During several rounds of talks with farmer leaders, the Centre has claimed that the new laws will boost farmers' income by creating one national market and bringing investments.

The PM also hailed the "world's largest vaccination programme" being carried out in India against Covid-19 and reiterated his "*dawai bhi, kadai bhi*" mantra. He also mentioned the lockdown imposed last year March 25 and referred to the *taali-thaali* campaign during the Janata Curfew as an inspiration for 'corona warriors'.

2 patients die as major fire erupts in Kanpur hospital

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

TWO persons died after a major fire broke out in the cardiology department of a hospital in Kanpur on Sunday morning. Those who died, including an 80-year-old woman, were admitted in the ICU. The hospital authorities, however, were yet to confirm the casualties. Other patients were safely evacuated.

The deceased have been identified as Rasoolan, 80, of Ghatampur Nauranga in Kanpur and Tekchandra of Hamirpur Rath. Tekchandra was on life support system and as the fire broke out, the staff took him out of ICU, but he was declared dead, said the sources.

At least seven fire tenders were sent to the LPS Institute Of Cardiology at Gol Chauraha of Kanpur city after the fire broke out in its emergency wing, said Station House Officer of Swaroop Nagar, Ashwani Pandey. He added that the entire hospital was filled with smoke. Window glasses on ground and first floors of the emergency wing were broken to take out the patients, Pandey said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the district authorities to ensure that all evacuated patients were provided with immediate care. He has also sought a report from the district administration and constituted a high-level team to visit the site and submit a report immediately.

The CM has deputed director general (fire services), principal secretary, medical education and the commissioner of Kanpur division to conduct a joint probe.

EXPRESS READ

Former CM defends Gairsain division move

Dehradun: Recently ousted chief minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat has said that his decision to accord commisionerate status to Gairsain was taken after discussion with "stakeholders". He further said that talks about dissolution of the status are just "fiction". However, the new CM has stated that the decision has been put on hold.

Over 32L kids enrolled in Bihar govt schools

Patna: In a post-lockdown special drive, over 32 lakh children have been enrolled in classes 1 to 9 in Bihar's government-run schools. The drive, named 'Praveshotsav', was launched on March 8. According to director of primary education Dr Ranjit K Singh, a total number of 32, 08,503 children have been brought back through enrollment.

BLOW IN BIHAR

Bank robber turns 'pauper' after govt drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Patna

NOTORIOUS bank-robber Amrendra K Madhav, 45, would have never imagined that his entire property would one day be confiscated by the government. The man who committed several crimes and ran an interstate gang of bank robbers now has become literally a 'pauper' with the attachment of his property, worth ₹1.5 crore, by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on the recommendation of Bihar's economic offences unit (EOU).

He was arrested from Dhanbad and his property in Bihar and Jharkhand were attached by the ED. Even a plot in the name of his wife has also been attached. Madhav had bought several properties in the fake names Sujeet Mitttal and Pooja Mittal.

Madhav, born in Gaya district, is not alone, when it comes to attachment of property. There are 170 notorious criminals in the list of EOU, whose property, both moveable and immovable, would soon be attached by the ED. A proposal to attach the properties of these criminals has been sent to the agency.

Sena, NCP leaders spar over Deshmukh's role

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

ALL is not well in Maharashtra's ruling coalition, it seems, as a war of words has erupted among the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partners over state home minister Anil Deshmukh.

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, in his column in the party mouthpiece *Saamana*, made a scathing attack on Deshmukh, calling him an 'accidental home minister', and sought his sacking. This invited sharp rebuke from NCP leader and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar who said nobody should play spoilsport in the coalition.

Deshmukh, who is facing heat after he was accused by former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh of directing some police officers to collect ₹100 crore per month from business establishments, on Sunday said a retired high court judge would probe the allegations.

Raut in his article said Shiv Sena president and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray should work on damage control to protect the government's reputation.

Claiming that Deshmukh was made home minister by NCP chief Sharad Pawar after the party's state chief Jayant Patil and Dilip Walse Patil refused the offer, Raut said, "Deshmukh has failed to handle the home ministry. It is not right that a suspected person should remain in the post... If a junior officer of Mumbai Police like Sachin Waze was running a (money) collection racket from the Mumbai Police commissioner's office. Why was the home minister not aware of it? Waze was a mere API. Who gave him so many powers?... If the government doesn't act immediately, it will damage its perception among the people."

Reacting sharply, Ajit Pawar said, "The allotment of cabinet berths is the prerogative of head of every political party... It should be respected instead of making any unwarranted comments. No one should play spoilsport when the alliance government is functioning properly."

Pawar-Shah meet buzz

There was a strong buzz in some circles that Amit Shah met Sharad Pawar and Praful Patel in Ahmedabad. Shah, however, parried a query in this regard saying everything cannot be made public, but Patel and other NCP leaders denied such a meeting

BEFORE TRUCE PACT

- 2 encounters, 3 militants killed
- Militants carried out 1 IED, 3 grenade attacks
- 1 soldier killed in militancy violence

AFTER PACT

- 8 encounters, 16 militants killed
- Militants carried out two hit-and-run attacks on security forces
- Son of non-Kashmiri dhaba owner shot dead in Srinagar
- 6 security personnel killed

Two ultras and a jawan were killed during a firefight in Shopian district on Saturday | ZAHOOR PUNJABI

Kashmir sees spurt in encounters after Indo-Pak ceasefire agreement

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

INCIDENTS of encounters and militancy-related violence have increased in Kashmir after the February 15 agreement between Indian and Pakistani militaries to strictly observe border ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to statistics, only two encounters had taken place between militants and security forces from January 1 to February 15. However, in over a month since the ceasefire agreement, there have been at least eight encounters in the Valley.

While only three militants were killed in the two encounters this year before February 15, a total of 16 militants including two top commanders — Albadar chief Khwaja Gani and Jaish top commander Sajjad Afghani — have been killed in the eight encounters since the border ceasefire pact.

The security forces have not lowered their guard in the Valley after the February 15 ceasefire pact, but have increased anti-militancy operations. Army's Northern Command chief Lt Gen Y K Joshi has said the border ceasefire agreement with Pakistan is being strictly adhered to by the Indian Army but it would have no bearing on the counter-militancy operations in Jammu and Kashmir. Army has also said the operations against militants would continue.

After the border ceasefire pact, militants have carried out two attacks on security forces in Srinagar, killing two police men and two CRPF jawans. Besides, the son of a non-Kashmiri dhaba owner was also killed by militants in Srinagar. While only one security man died in militancy violence from January1 to February 15, six security men have been killed in militancy-related violence after the ceasefire pact.

FAMILY DREAMS

Chhattisgarh SP's Holi gift to surrendered Maoists

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

KARTAMI Vada, a former deputy platoon commander of the banned outfit CPI (Maoist) in Chhattisgarh, is a happy man today. For, he can now start a family life and hope to become a father.

As a Maoist cadre, the joy of parenthood was strictly forbidden for Kartami and others like him and they were forced to undergo surgery for sterilisation. Having surrendered before Sukma district's superintendent of police K L Dhruw, he and five others got one of the best gifts of their life ahead of Holi when they underwent reverse vasectomy. Moved by their plea, the SP facilitated their surgical procedure at a hospital in Raipur.

"None of us were familiar with reverse vasectomy. We are moved by the kind gesture of the SP," said one of the surrendered Maoists. The others couldn't agree more.

"We were forced by senior Maoist leaders to undergo vasectomy, crushing our hope to be ever able to start a family," said Vetti Kamlu, who was secretary, Kanger Ghati area committee, of CPI (Maoist).

Madkam Bheema, former divisional head of Maoist cultural troupe, said he renounced the outfit yearning for family life. Life as a Maoist cadre was stressful as emotional needs are completely suppressed, he added.

"The cadres, after lured into the Maoist movement, can't nurture a desire of experiencing parenthood. Maoist ideology has no regard for personal needs of the cadres," averred Dhruw. The surrendered cadres hope the SP's noble gesture would inspire more disillusioned Maoists to surrender and start a new life.

Tiger reserve gets ₹26 crore for relocating villages

The Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR) has been allocated ₹26 crore to relocate two villages – Latu and Kujrum — from inside the core zone. According to forest officials, they are looking forward to shifting the two villages outside the PTR in order to reduce biotic pressure on wildlife habitat and provide a space free from human intervention to the wild animals. Notably, a total of 8 villages have been identified for relocation to some other place outside the PTR, out of which Latu and Kujrum will be relocated in the first phase. Relocation of these two villages, according to forest officials, will free 300 square kilometre area.

RANCHI DIARY

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

Covid test must for passengers from Kerala, Maha

Passengers travelling to Jharkhand from high-positivity states like Maharashtra and Kerala will have to either undergo mandatory Covid-19 test or be asked to produce a report of Covid-19 test conducted through RT-PCR within 72 hours before entering Jharkhand's territory. The state health secretary has written to the Disaster Management Department in this regard after a spike in Covid-19 cases across the country. While all passengers travelling to the state from Maharashtra and Kerala by air will have to be either tested on the spot or have to produce a Covid test report, those travelling by bus or train will have to be tested by the concerned district surveillance unit, said officials. It may be noted that Maharashtra has already announced night curfews to curb the recent surge.

Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha TV, studio launched

Adding one more feather on its cap, the state Assembly got its own Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha TV and Studio, which were launched by Assembly Speaker Ravindra Nath Mahato and Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Notably, Jharkhand is the second state in the country with own TV channel for the Legislative Assembly. Now on, direct proceedings in Jharkhand Assembly will be broadcast live on the YouTube and other social media platforms. Artists mesmerised everyone with their performance in a cultural event organised on the occasion.

Social media posts during Holi on radar

The cyber cell of Ranchi Police will keep a watch on rumour mongers spreading fake news aimed at creating communal tension during Holi. The cyber sleuths will keep a tab on social media posts round the clock to track down the miscreants. According to police officials, people should be cautious while posting any information in social media as the cyber cell is actively monitoring them. The police are keeping an eye on anti-social elements, they said. Deputy Commissioner Chhavi Ranjan has appealed to the public that they should avoid spreading any type of rumour during the festivals.

6 killed
as a small plane heading for US crashed in the northern Mexico on Saturday night

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	19	-4	SNY	Los Angeles	24	8	SNY
Colombo	32	23	TDS	Melbourne	24	16	TDS
Dhaka	28	16	SNY	Moscow	-8	-15	LC
Dubai	26	17	SNY	New York	3	-4	LC
Houston	20	9	SNY	Singapore	32	24	TDS
Istanbul	16	7	LC	Toronto	2	-9	LC
London	13	4	LC	Washington	13	-1	LC

A protester runs around a makeshift barricade set on fire in Yangon on Sunday; and (right) an anti-coup protester fires a sling shot at security forces in Yangon | AP

Two more shot dead in Myanmar

Hundreds hit the streets protesting the coup, a day after 114 killed in deadliest crackdown

YANGON

PROTESTERS in Myanmar returned to the streets on Sunday to press their demands for a return to democracy, just a day after security forces killed at least 114 people in the bloodiest day since last month's military coup.

Protests were held in Yangon and Mandalay, the country's two biggest cities, as well as elsewhere. Some of the demonstrations were again met with police force.

At least two people were killed on Sunday, Reuters reported quoting reports in the local media. Shots were fired at a funeral for protesters killed on Saturday in Bago, near Yangon.

The Saturday killings by police and soldiers took place throughout the country as Myanmar's military celebrated the annual Armed Forces Day holiday with a parade in the country's capital, Naypyitaw.

The bloodshed quickly drew international condemnation, both from diplomatic missions within Myanmar and from abroad. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was shocked by the killings of civilians, including children. "The continuing military crackdown is unacceptable and demands a firm, unified & resolute international response," he wrote on Twitter.

The military chiefs of a dozen countries including the US, Britain, Japan and South Korea joined together Saturday to condemn Myanmar's use of lethal force against civilians.

"A professional military follows international standards for conduct and is responsible for protecting—not harming—the people it serves," the officials said in the joint statement. "We urge the Myanmar Armed Forces to cease violence and work to restore respect and credibility with the people of Myanmar that it has lost through its actions."

The other countries that signed it were Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands, and New Zealand.

The human rights group Amnesty International revived criticism that the international community was not doing enough to end the violence in Myanmar. "UNSC member states' continued refusal to act against this never-ending horror is contemptible," said Ming Yu Hah, the organisation's deputy regional director for campaigns. *Agencies*

20 injured in Palm Sunday bombing of Indonesia church

JAKARTA

AN Indonesian cathedral was rocked by a suicide bombing on Sunday that wounded 20 as worshippers celebrated the start of Holy Week, an attack slammed by the country's president as an "act of terror".

Two suspects behind the powerful blast were killed as they rode a motorbike into the compound of the church in Makassar city on Sulawesi island, authorities said.

"A suicide bombing occurred at the cathedral in Makassar," Indonesia's chief security minister Mahfud MD told reporters in the capital Jakarta. "The two (bombers) died."

Authorities had not previously confirmed that the bombing, which happened around 10.30 am local time (0330 GMT), was a suicide attack. Twenty church officials, congregants and security staff were injured by debris from the blast, authorities said.

The explosion occurred when a security guard tried to prevent the two perpetrators —who have not been identified —from entering the church.

One witness described hearing two "very strong" blasts and then seeing plumes of smoke. "There were several injured people on the street. I helped one woman... who was wounded and covered in blood," Yosi, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, told AFP.

"Her grandchild was also injured. There were body parts everywhere."

It was not clear if the victims' wounds were life-threatening. "We were finishing the service and people were going home when it happened," Pastor Wilhelmus Tulak told reporters. Forensic investigators have been poring over body parts scattered at the scene in a bid to determine the attackers' identities. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. Churches have been targeted in the past by extremists in Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim-majority nation and home to several religious minorities including Christians and Hindus

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said he "strongly condemned this act of terror".

"Terrorism is a crime against humanity," he said.

"I call on everyone to fight against terror and radicalism, which go against religious values."

Amnesty International said the bombing showed "complete contempt" for human rights. The explosion at the main Catholic cathedral in Makassar—a port city of about 1.5 million—happened just after congregants finished celebrating Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, which commemorates Jesus's entry into Jerusalem.

It comes a week before Easter. In his mass for Palm Sunday, Pope Francis said he prayed for all the victims of violence, "especially those of this morning's attack in Indonesia, in front of the Cathedral of Makassar".

Sunday's attack follows the arrest in recent months of dozens of militants suspected of planning terror attacks, according to Indonesia's counter-terror squad. *AFP*

Bombers were members of pro-IS group: Police

The suicide bombing at an Indonesian cathedral on Palm Sunday was carried out by two members of a pro-Islamic State extremist group blamed for other church blasts, including a deadly 2019 attack in the Philippines, police said. Late on Sunday, National Police chief Listyo Sigit Prabowo said both attackers—a man and a woman—were members of Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), an extremist group also blamed for a deadly church bombing in Indonesia's second-biggest city Surabaya in 2018

An Indonesian investigator collects evidence from near a vehicle damaged in Sunday's bomb attack in Makassar | AFP

WAIT AND WATCH

Will Jaishankar meet Qureshi at Tajikistan conference?

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi will lead a delegation to the 'Heart of Asia' conference scheduled to take place on Tuesday at Tajikistan capital Dushanbe, the country's Foreign Office announced on Sunday.

On the sidelines of the 9th Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) ministerial conference, Qureshi will hold "consultations with key regional and international partners," it said.

The conference would also see the participation of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The participation of both the ministers at the event has sparked speculation of a possible meeting between the two leaders amidst peace overtures from the Pakistan Army. However, both countries have not said anything about a possible meeting between the two foreign ministers in Dushanbe.

Jaishankar is expected to meet leaders of other participating countries on the sidelines of the conference, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday while announcing his participation.

Speaking at the India Economic Conclave in New Delhi on March 26, Jaishankar did not give a specific reply to questions on whether he will meet Qureshi on the sidelines of the conference. "My scheduling is in progress. So far I do not think any such meeting (is scheduled)," he said.

Asked whether the agreement between the militaries of India and Pakistan and the talks between Indus commissioners of the two sides were a sign of thaw in ties, Jaishankar said, "I think the agreements between the DGMOs is a sensible agreement because I don't think Pakistan either did themselves or us good by encouraging or facilitating terrorists across the LoC. *PTI*

Philippines air force fly fighter jets over Chinese vessels near reef

MANILA

PHILIPPINE air force jet is conducting daily patrols over Chinese fishing vessels parked near a disputed reef, the defence chief said, as Beijing refuses to pull the ships out of the area.

Around 220 boats were first spotted earlier this month at the boomerang-shaped Whitsun Reef around 320 kms west of Palawan Island, sparking a diplomatic row. Manila has ordered Beijing to recall the vessels, describing their presence as an incursion into its sovereign territory.

But China, which claims almost the entirety of the South China Sea, says the flotilla is made up of fishing vessels sheltering from bad weather.

The Philippine foreign ministry has filed a diplomatic protest, and several countries, including the United States and Australia, have expressed concern over the renewed tension in the region. Philippine navy and coast guard ships have been deployed to the area to monitor the situation, in addition to the aerial patrols, Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said late on Saturday. "We are ready to defend our national sovereignty and protect the marine resources of the Philippines," Lorenzana said.

He added there will be an "increased presence" of navy and coast guard ships patrolling Philippine waters.

The resource-rich South China Sea is contested by several countries, including the Philippines and China.

Beijing often invokes the so-called nine-dash line to justify its apparent historic rights over most of it, and has ignored a 2016 international tribunal decision that declared this assertion as without basis. *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

More restrictions on gatherings in Pakistan from Apr 5

Pakistan has decided to impose fresh restrictions on social gatherings from April 5 onwards as the nation continues to witness a surge in the Covid-19 cases, according to an official statement. Pakistan's coronavirus cases till Sunday stood at 6,54,591 as 4,767 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours. The National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) in its meeting headed by Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar took the decision of restrictions against gatherings after reviewing the latest pandemic situation. The top anti-corona body decided to ban all indoor and outdoor wedding ceremonies from April 5 in cities and districts where the positivity rate is over 8 per cent.

Will not succumb to UNHRC pressure: Gotabaya

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Sunday said the recent UNHRC resolution against Sri Lanka was the doing of "local and foreign forces" which do not want the country to progress, and vowed that his government would not succumb to such pressures. The UNHRC adopted a resolution against Sri Lanka's rights record on March 23. In his first public comments since the UNHRC resolution, Rajapaksa said: "We will never succumb to (such) pressures; we are a free nation."

DOZENS MISSING AS TERRORISTS SEIZE MOZAMBIQUE TOWN

MAPUTO

DOZENS of people were still unaccounted for on Sunday, following a deadly Islamist attack on Mozambique's northern town of Palma, while thousands of survivors were being evacuated to the provincial capital Pemba, sources said.

Terrorists had seized control of the town—which is close to huge gas projects involving global majors like France's Total on Saturday night. Human Rights Watch said the militants indiscriminately shot civilians in their homes and on the streets.

"A rescue operation is currently underway. An unknown number of people died as they tried to flee Amarula hotel—convoy was attacked by the insurgents," Human Rights Watch regional director Dewa Mavhinga told AFP.

In their closest attack to the gas project in the three-year insurgency, the militants attacked the town in the northern province of Cabo Delgado on Wednesday, forcing nearly 200 people including foreign gas workers to be evacuated from a hotel where they had sought refuge.

Militants began attacking the town, a gas hub in the province of Cabo Delgado, on Wednesday, forcing nearly 200 people including foreign gas workers to evacuate a hotel where they had taken refuge.

They were temporarily taken to the heavily guarded gas plant located on the Afungi peninsula on the Indian Ocean coast south of the Tanzanian border before being moved to Pemba.

French energy giant Total has suspended its gas operations in Afungi.

"The remobilization of the project that was envisaged at the beginning of the week is of course now suspended," it said in a statement, referring to their Wednesday announcement of a resumption of work in the area.

At least seven people were killed in the violence, according to local media.

Total said none of their staff working at the Afungi peninsula where the project is located, were killed during the attack. But the company "has decided to reduce to a strict minimum level the workforce on the Afungi site". *Agencies*

Long-running insurgency

Islamist militants seized control of a town in northern Mozambique, near a huge gas project involving France's Total. The extremists have conducted several raids on villages and towns in the region for the past four years

FIGHTING RAGING SINCE 2017

The extremists fighters have since October 2017, raided villages and towns across Mozambique's north, causing nearly 7,00,000 to flee their homes

The town of Palma had been largely cut off from the rest of Cabo Delgado province for several weeks, as the rebels made road access unsafe

SURPRISE ATTACK

- Militants began the attack on the town of Palma in the northern province of Cabo Delgado on Wednesday
- Jihadist militants staged the surprise raid, sending terrified residents into nearby forests, while gas and government workers sought shelter at a hotel.
- The attack came hours after Total, the principal investor in the $20 billion gas project, said it was gradually resuming work, after it had suspended all construction work in Jan due to a spate of attacks.
- The attack is the closest yet to the major gas project during a 3-year Islamist insurgency in Mozambique's north

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, I **Radhe Shayam** S/o Musddilal aged about 56 years R/at No.30, NRI Layout, Kalkere Village, Rammurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016, Karnataka, I have lost my documents Numbered: BNG (U) 13969/2003, KRP15455/2002-03 with regard to the Schedule Property Site No.30 situated at Kalkere Village, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West and North to South 30 feet. A police complaint has been lodged with regard to the loss of said document on 06.03.2021, Lost report No:065883/2021. So I request the general public if any one found the said original document please inform and contact me in the above address. Ph. No.8901011307.

Sd/- **Radhe Shayam**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **SRI GIRISH PRAKASH & SMT MANASA G N** both are residing at No 400, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main Road, Sindhunadhi Road, Brindavanagar Pipe Line, Srinagar, Bangalore - 560 050, intends to purchase herein below stated schedule property from its owner namely Sri Krishnamurthy. M, son of Sri Mahadevaiah K & Smt Kavitha.S, wife of Sri Krishnamurthy.M, both are residing at No 18, 2nd Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, Bangalrore - 560 072. Sri Krishnamurthy. M & Smt Kavitha.S, are the absolute owners having right, title and interest in respect of the schedule property and said schedule property is free from all encumbrances, liens, charges, minor claim, etc.

The General public are hereby informed that any person/s having any objection with respect of the schedule property may raise their objection before the under signed with supporting documentary evidence / proof, within **7 days** from the date of this publication of this notice. In the event no such legally tenable claim is received, my client shall proceed with purchase of the schedule property as if no such claims exist.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing (Vacant site) No BDA Site No. 2395, situated at 2nd Block, Sri M Vishweshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore (Layout formed by BDA) Measuring : **East to West :** 12.00 mtrs. and **North to South :** 9.00 Mts., in all measuring about 108 Sqa. Mtrs., Bounded on: **East :** Site No. 2387, **West :** Road, **North :** Site No. 2394, **South :** Site No. 2396 e

J.PRAKASH, B.Com, LL.B., ADVOCATE,
No. 25/1, Vinayaka Extension, 2nd Cross, 6th Road, Chamarajpet, BENGALURU-560 018
Date: 29/03/2021

THE MICO ASSOCIATE HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LIMITED
No. 290/2, 2nd Floor, Lakshmi Arcade, 11th Cross
Opp. Sabharwal Restaurant, Wilson Garden, Bangalore - 560 027.
Ph : 080-22210078, email : info@micohousingsociety.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Managing Committee of the above Society invites tender from reputed CPWD / Class one Contractors / agency towards the work of formation of residential layout at Banandur Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk and District. The eligible and interest Contractors / agency may submit their work profile between 05-04-2021 to 09-04-2021 and obtain the project specification and other details as may be required to submit the tender at the office of the Co-Operative Society. Further the said interest Contractors / agency may submit the tender on or before 17-04-2021 in a sealed cover for the consideration of the Co-Operative Society.

Note : The final decision is by the board of management.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 29-03-2021

Sd/-
Secretary

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ,ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು-581115
ತಾ: ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು ಜಿ: ಹಾವೇರಿ

ಕ್ರಸನರಾ:ಕಾ:ಟೆಂ:ಪಹಿ:218:2020-21 ದಿನಾಂಕ:26-03-2021

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999-2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕೆಬಡ್ಯೂ-3ರ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಸನ್ 2020-21 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರೂ.500.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 05 ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ http// www.ranebennurcity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91-8046010000 +91-8022631200 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ನಂಬರ್	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
1	DMA/2020-21/OW/WORK_INDENT111939	100.00
2	DMA/2020-21/OW/WORK_INDENT112008	100.00
3	DMA/2020-21/OW/WORK_INDENT112009	100.00
4	DMA/2020-21/OW/WORK_INDENT112010	100.00
5	DMA/2020-21/OW/WORK_INDENT112011	100.00

ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಅದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ	:	16-04-2021 ಸಮಯ : 15.30
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ	:	16-04-2021 ಸಮಯ : 16.30
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ	:	19-04-2021 ಸಮಯ : 11.30
ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ ಆಥವಾ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ	:	23-04-2021 ಸಮಯ : 11.30

ಸಹಿ/-
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು

ಸಹಿ/-
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು

₹31,000 cr has been raised by Indian companies through initial share sales on the stock markets, or IPOs, during the current financial year

Timing is a skill you have to hone

Getting the time of entry right is challenging for even the best-equipped fund manager in the world. It is an art you practice over the years. You begin with small amounts. You will suffer losses at regular intervals if your quest is to get the timing right. If you are an investor who looks to 'buy and hold', however, you stand a good chance of striking it big.

WHY YOU NEED BOTH ACTIVE AND PASSIVE INVESTING

Being at the right place at the right time requires a bit of effort on your part

RAJAS KELKAR

YOUR financial future is based on you being there at the right place and at the right time. That, by no means, should be inferred as luck. You base your investments on several factors. The most important of those is your ability to have enough resources to make that suitable investment. It also depends on the active or passive nature of your investing.

The share price of a company like Bajaj Finance has sky-rocketed in ten years to over ₹5,000. It was trading below ₹100 in 2011. Similarly, look at the stock market performance of PI Industries, an agrochemical company. You may see that the share price is hovering around over ₹2,500 from ₹70 a decade back. The Sensex and Nifty have grown two and a half times during the decade.

To make some meaningful money out of the two companies' stock performance above or the broader market, you should have had at least ₹1,00,000 in your hand at the beginning of the decade. It would be best if you could hold on to that investment for that whole period.

To make sense of 'being at the right place and at the right time', one needs to understand the meaning in the personal finance context. That position in your life requires an effort from your side.

Being at the right place

In your financial life, you face a lot of ups and downs. You have a good job, and you earn nicely. A steady job may not give you more income but may give you enough to set aside each month for investing. If you lose your job and then settle for another one that pays less for any reason, your finances may see a downturn. Your ability to keep aside a surplus every month managing your income challenges is a crucial factor. If you make that a habit, you will always be at the right place to make a solid investment at some point in your life. It is not just about luck. It is the way you set out a goal.

That amount of ₹1,00,000 in a future multi-bagger stock is the money you do not need. It is an investment that you do not touch for as long as it does not meet your stock return objectives.

Knowing the right time

The timing is the key. Your entry into a stock is based on your perception of value. If you believe in a particular industry, you will have to identify a company that is likely to last for decades beyond you. Getting the time of entry right is challenging for even the best-equipped fund manager in the world. It is an art you practice over the years. You begin with small amounts. You will suffer losses at regular intervals if your quest is to get the timing right. If you are an investor who looks to 'buy and hold', you stand a good chance of striking it big. It would help if you could read the financial statements of businesses and understand financial news. By attempting to time the market regularly, you will create opportunities for yourself.

Active and passive investing

Try to strike a balance in your active and passive investing. For a better financial future, you need both. Active investing is where you directly own shares and attempt to generate a superior return than the overall market. Passive investing is where you use an index fund to get market-linked returns. As an individual, you should have a portfolio of at least 8-10 solid companies. You must ensure that you do not need the money immediately that you wish to deploy in these companies. A couple of them could be potential multi-bagger stocks.

A financial advisor would help you define goals and create a road to them. One goal should be to get to a stage where you have that ₹1,00,000 for timing the stock market. You can use passive investing in creating that initial capital for active investing.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

MONEY-WISE

THINGS YOU MUST KNOW ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL PLANNER

WHEN someone hires a financial planner or an IFA/RIA, most of the time they do not know what to expect. Most advisers do not tell them what they should expect either. This is not a good situation for a good relationship to develop.. so go on and ask them this:

- Which is your best communication mode—SMS, Phone, WhatsApp..? And what is your usual turn-around-time?
- Will you immediately respond and calm me? I may be worried about something silly, but I do not know it is silly!
- How often will YOU communicate with me?
- Will you have my portfolio in front of you in a jiffy or will I have to send this to you?
- Is there any website you own, or somewhere I can maintain my portfolio and share my login and password with you?
- How often will you monitor my portfolio and talk to me about it—even to maybe say 'no action is needed'?
- Will you communicate with me for all things, or will you have some assistant assigned to me?
- Is there any specific time for us to communicate or should I just call you on your cell?
- I assume that when some of my funds are not doing well and action has to be taken, YOU WILL CALL ME.
- If you maintain my portfolio, will you give me a login and pwd so that I can have a look at it when I want?
- If there are products that are good for me (our joint view) will you help me execute, EVEN if you do not have them?
- When I wish to shift from a remunerated asset (mutual fund) to a non-remunerated asset (real estate) is there a conflict?
- When I need capital gains statements for my tax purposes, will you send it to me automatically?
- How do I compensate you for the direct shares advice? I know you are not a broker.
- If you are not registered with a fund house with whom I wish to deal—how will you handle the compensation?
- My wife likes to read things slowly, so I would love all communication to be in writing on email—is this too much to ask?
- I am of course assuming that all your credentials are updated, if you have a conflict of interest you will tell me about it.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

HDFC Bank follows SBI in extending special FD schemes for senior citizens

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Chennai

FOLLOWING the State Bank of India's decision, HDFC Bank has also extended its special fixed deposit schemes for senior citizens by three months up to June 30. A senior citizen who makes a fixed deposit under the HDFC Bank Senior Citizen Care FD will get an interest rate of 6.25 per cent. These rates have been applicable from November 13, 2020.

Such schemes had been launched by several banks last year during the height of the pandemic to provide some remunerative option to senior citizens at a time when interest rates were diving. With interest rates not expected to increase anytime soon even though inflation is starting to strengthen again, financial experts note that FDs are among the safest bets for the elderly.

"It is always wise to invest some portion of your money in low risk investment options like an FD. And if the elderly person is getting more interest from such a scheme, then one should opt for it," said S Ganesan,a Chennai based financial expert.

Last week, SBI had extended its special FD scheme until June 30. At present, SBI gives a 5.4 per cent interest rate on a five-year FD for the general public. For a senior citizen creating a fixed deposit under the special FD scheme, the interest rate is 6.20 per cent.

HDFC Bank, meanwhile, said that an additional premium of 0.25 per cent (over and above the existing premium of 0.50 per cent) shall be given to Senior Citizens who wish to book FDs of less than ₹5 crore for a tenure of 5 years during the special deposit offer that will be open until June 30.

In the case of premature closure of an FD booked under the HDFC Bank Senior Citizen Care FD scheme (including a sweep in/partial closure) post 5 years, the interest rate will be 1.25 per cent below the contracted rate or the base rate applicable for the period the deposit has remained with the bank, whichever is lower.

In case of premature closure prior to 5 years, the interest rate will be 1.00 per cent below the contracted rate or the base rate applicable for the period of the deposit.

Special FD rates for seniors

- HDFC Bank says extra premium of 0.25% shall be given to Senior Citizens who book FDs of less than ₹5 crore for 5 years
- In the case of premature closure after 5 years, the interest rate will be 1.25% below contracted rate
- For premature closures before 5 yearr, this will be 1%

Higher FDI in insurance to benefit policyholders

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

WITH the government seeking to further liberalize the foreign direct investment (FDI) cap in insurance companies to 74 per cent from the existing 49 per cent, experts say that a higher FDI limit will help insurers access fresh capital to improve insurance penetration, and bring in better technical know-how and innovation to the advantage of the consumers. Policyholders, they say, will get a wider choice, access to more innovative products, and a better customer service and claims settlement experience.

"The current higher cap of FDI will strengthen the industry and provide capital for growth requirements. As the industry grows and the financials become stronger, it paves the way for more value added products which address policyholders' needs," said Subhasish Acharya, chief distribution officer, Future Generali India Life Insurance.

The decision is also expected to reduce the demand-supply gap. "I believe that high technology must be complemented with high touch for a successful life insurance company. Policyholders in tier-2 and tier-3 towns and beyond will benefit from the investments made by companies in tech and last mile connectivity," he added.

According to Jyoti Prakash Gadia, managing director, Resurgent India Limited, there is scope for substantial expansion of the existing large ventures given that India still has a insurance penetration percentage of less than four per cent (premium as a percentage of GDP) as against the world average of six per cent.

Moreover, the post Covid-19 scenario has resulted in more demand, particularly for health insurance. Higher capital will ensure that companies are able to meet the future claims.

In addition, the government has announced several safeguards to protect policyholders' money. The majority of the directors in the board and key management personnel will need to be resident Indians so that they are accountable to Indian laws and courts. The government will also prescribe a specific percentage of the profits that will have to be treated as general reserve.

There is scope for substantial expansion of the existing large ventures given that India still has a insurance penetration percentage of less than four per cent —Jyoti Prakash Gadia, MD, Resurgent India Ltd

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

CG CONSUMER

Current Price ₹383.35

Target Price ₹485

It has consolidated its position in Fans and Pumps, and has become the number two player in Water Heaters. Though there is some pre-buying in 3QFY21, we expect retail sales to gradually pick up. With price hikes in place, we expect double-digit revenue growth to sustain.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

SEE-SAW

Covid-19 resurgence set to keep stock markets volatile next week

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

MAINTAINING recent trends, the Indian stock markets are expected to remain volatile over the upcoming holiday-shortened three session week. Updates related to the Covid case situation in India and cues from global markets will remain in focus while market participants are also expected to keep an eye on auto sales numbers which will be released by automakers on April 1.

"The coming week is a holiday-shortened one and we expect volatility to remain high. It marks the beginning of a new month also so macroeconomic data i.e. core sector and auto sales numbers will remain in focus. Besides, updates related to the COVID situation in India and cues from the global markets will also be closely tracked by the participants," said Ajit Mishra, VP-Research, Religare Broking.

India on Sunday reported 62,258 new coronavirus infections, the highest single-day rise so far in 2021. Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday had directed the administration to plan strategies for a lockdown in the days to come—an announcement that will likely have a severe impact on market investors.

Additionally, Covid-19 cases continue to rise in Europe too and the yield on benchmark 10-year US Treasury notes remains high at over 1.6 per cent, sparking a selloff on inflation fears. These two factors alone had dragged down India's equity market for the second straight week.

Rusmik Oza, Executive Vice President, Head of Fundamental Research at Kotak Securities said that with fresh restrictions and faster vaccination, we can expect sentiment to remain positive at the start of the new fiscal year. The earnings season will also kick in from the second week of April which could turn out to be a key driver for stocks, Oza said.

EXPRESS READ

Manappuram eyes taking MFI arm Asirwad public

Kochi: Manappuram Finance, the second largest gold loan company in the country, is toying with the idea of hiving off and taking its microfinance arm Asirwad Microfinance public within a year, founder and chief executive of Manappuram Finance Group, V P Nandakumar said. With a loan portfolio of over Rs 5,360 crore and close to 25 lakh customers across 23 states, Asirvad is the fourth largest MFI in the country in terms of the loan book.

Coal India production to see degrowth

Kolkata: The world's largest miner Coal India is likely to post a marginal contraction of its output for the year 2020-21 by 5-6 million tonne since its production will be below the 600 million mark, PTI reported. In 2019-20, the miner had produced 602 million tonnes, down from 606.9 million in 2018-19 when it had registered its highest production.

Public procurement from GeM over ₹1L cr

New Delhi: Public procurement of goods and services has crossed ₹1 lakh crore from the government's buying portal GeM since the platform was launched in August 2016. This was on account of a sharp increase in buying activities by different ministries, said GeM CEO Talleen Kumar. Sellers on GeM grew from 3.45 lakh a year ago to 12.67 lakh on March 25.

Increase solar capacity addition target: Parl panel

New Delhi: A parliamentary panel has asked the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) to increase the capacity addition target for the scheme focused on setting up grid-connected solar projects by CPSUs. MNRE is implementing the scheme by providing Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for such CPSUs in order to cover the cost difference between domestically-produced solar PV cells and modules and the imported ones.

Reserve Bank likely to maintain status quo on interest rates as Covid cases rise

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

IN the midst of rising economic uncertainty due to a sharp rise in Covid-19 cases across the country, economists and analysts believe that the central bank will maintain a status quo on policy rates during its next monetary policy meeting. The Monetary Policy Committee is scheduled to meet for its bi-monthly policy meeting starting April 7.

According to a report from Dun & Bradstreet Global Chief Economist Arun Singh, the recent surge in the Covid-19 cases and the restrictions imposed by several states will affect the pace of revival of industrial production. Long-term yields are also hardening, leading to rise in borrowing costs.

"In this context, the Reserve Bank of India faces the difficult task of managing the inflationary pressures while preventing a rise in the borrowing cost. Despite the rising inflationary pressures, we expect the RBI to keep the policy repo rate unchanged in the forthcoming monetary policy review," he observed.

UBS Securities India economist Tanvee Gupta Jain also expects the RBI to maintain comfortable liquidity levels in the near term to ensure the least disruption to the government's borrowing programme. "We continue to expect the central bank to pursue policy normalisation in the second half of FY22 to keep inflationary pressures contained and preserve financial stability. In our base case, we expect the MPC to shift towards a neutral policy stance and/or pursue reverse repo rate hikes (25-40bp) without recourse to policy (repo) rate hikes in FY22. We expect the repo rate to be hiked by 50 bps but only towards H2FY23," Jain said.

However, an Anand Rathi report pointed out that the hardening of retail inflation again over past three months would put the RBI under pressure to review the extent of monetary and liquidity accommodation. "Hardening of core inflation would be of special discomfort. Despite these, the continued growth concern is likely to keep monetary policy accommodative during 2021," the brokerage said.

We continue to expect the central bank to pursue policy normalisation in the second half of FY22 to keep inflationary pressures contained and preserve financial stability —UBS Securities

Path-breaking win for team India

Kohli & Co tear up old template to follow England's method, clinch series in a thriller at Pune

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

LOSING the toss and batting first for the third time in a row in this series, in the lookout for a safe total, India shelved their conservative approach only to be bowled out for 329 in 48.2 overs. It was far from a par score on this flat deck against an England side that has batsmen who have a reputation for making such targets a walk in the park. On Sunday, the Indian attack led by Bhuvneshwar Kumar broke the spine — openers Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow were dismissed by the third over — of the world champions early in the chase. Victory looked certain when England slipped to 257-8, only for Sam Curran — with help from poor fielding — to nearly snatch it away from the hosts with an unbeaten 95. Needing 14 off the last over, T Natarjan was on the money giving away only six runs to hand India the series.

Having seen England out bat them in the second ODI, where India ended 30-40 runs short of a winning total despite scoring in excess of 330, there was a total change in their approach on Sunday. Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma, who prefer to drop anchor before gradually shifting gears, showed a lot more intent than usual.

Despite having the batsmen to do the job, India's problem in ODIs on flat decks has been their gameplan of preserving wickets and taking the game deep. It has resulted in them not scoring enough boundaries in the initial period, where they have been content in scoring ones and twos. Dhawan and Rohit, one of the most successful opening pairs, score only at 5.29 runs per over while batting first is a case in point.

Having got a hang of the wicket in the previous two matches, they showed intent from the beginning, even going for aerial shots, scoring 11 boundaries in the first powerplay. In the first ODI where these two played till 15.1 overs, there were only 89 runs in total. With the two in full flow, they brought up their 11th century stand in 14 overs, laying an ideal platform for the middle order to cash in.

India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar (C) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of England's Jonny Bairstow on Sunday | AFP

The introduction of Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali resulted in them losing Rohit, Dhawan and Virat Kohli in the space of four overs. And by the time KL Rahul gifted his wicket away in the 25th over, India had 157 on board. The situation demanded them to bat through the overs. However, India chose to stick to their aggressive approach with Rishabh Pant and Hardik Pandya ensuring the run-rate didn't dip. Half a dozen sixes and seven boundaries were hit in the 11.4 overs they batted together before both departed in the space of three overs. By the time the second powerplay ended, their score read 283-6 with Krunal Pandya and Shardul Thakur in the middle.

In the second PP between 11-40 overs, India scored 218 runs, losing six wickets. It was nearly 60 more than what India had managed in the same period in the first two ODIs, where they scored 166-4 and 169-1. The lower-order, understandably, focused on batting out the overs and getting as many runs on board, but 329 still looked less.

Defending the total, Bhuvneshwar provided India with early breakthroughs and Shardul Thakur played his part by picking up key wickets to give a 2-1 series win that will give Kohli & Co the confidence to carry the aggressive approach forward.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: Rohit b Rashid 37, Dhawan c & b Rashid 67, Kohli b Ali 7, Pant c Buttler b Curran 78, Rahul c Ali b Livingstone 7, Hardik b Stokes 64, Krunal c Roy b Wood 25, Thakur c Buttler b Wood 30, Bhuvneshwar c Curran b Topley 3, Krishna b Wood 0, Natarajan (not out) 0, **Extras** (LB 1, W 10) **11**, **Total** (all out, 48.2 ovs) **329**. **FOW:** 1-103, 2-117, 3-121, 4-157, 5-256, 6-276, 7-321, 8-328, 9-329. **Bowling:** Curran 5-0-43-1, Topley 9.2-0-66-1, Wood 7-1-34-3, Stokes 7-0-45-1, Rashid 10-0-81-2, Ali 7-0-39-1, Livingstone 3-0-20-1.

ENGLAND: Roy b Bhuvneshwar 14, Bairstow lbw Bhuvneshwarr 1, Stokes c Dhawan b Natarajan 35, Malan c Rohit b Thakur 50, Buttler lbw Thakur 15, Livingstone c & b Thakur 36, Ali c Hardik b Bhuvneshwar 29, Curran (not out) 95, Rashid c Kohli b Thakur 19, Wood (run out) 14, Topley (not out) **1, Extras** (lb 1, w 12) 13, **Total** (9 wickets, 50 ovs) **322/9. FOW:** 1-14, 2-28, 3-68, 4-95, 5-155, 6-168, 7-200, 8-257, 9-317. **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar 10-0-42-3, Natarajan 10-0-73-1, Krishna 7-0-62-0, Thakur 10-67-4, Hardik 9-0-48-0, Krunal 4-0-29-0.

Shooters dominate team events, emerge winners

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @ New Delhi

THE ISSF World Cup concluded on Sunday at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi with India finishing atop the medal standings with a whopping 15 gold medals. The next best was Team USA with four gold medals. However, if one looks closely at the medals claimed by the hosts, the newly-introduced team events played a huge part in the outcome.

Among Olympic disciplines, the host nation claimed five gold. The first arrived courtesy Yashaswini Singh Deswal in 10m air pistol while another came in 10m air rifle mixed team through the pair of Divyansh Singh Panwar and Elavenil Valarivan. Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary combined to win the third in 10m mixed air pistol as Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar excelled in the 50m rifle three positions while Chinki Yadav clinched the 25m pistol women event.

The rest of the ten gold medals came as the ISSF trialled new team events. Each event had additional men's and women's team events while a few had additional mixed sections. Sunday's two gold medals arrived in the trap men's and women's team events as the trio of Shreyasi Singh, Manisha Keer, Rajeshwari Kumari in women's and Lakshay Sheoran, Prithviraj Tondaiman, Kynan Chenai in men's category secured top spot. Another silver was added in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol team competition courtesy Gurpreet Singh, Vijayveer Sidhu and Adarsh Singh.

India trap shooters won gold medals in team events on Sunday | AFP

The newly-introduced events helped a lot of Indian shooters, most of whom were competing on the international stage after a gap of more than a year. In some cases, shooters who could not perform as well as they would have liked in individual events managed to win a medal at the end of the day. A case in point being Sanjeev Rajput, the rifle shooter who could not medal in his individual event but garnered gold in the mixed event along with fellow veteran exponent of the three position Tejaswini Sawant.

"The pressure of being in a final is the same, whether it be an individual or team event. We managed to get more competitive action under our belts which is a huge bonus," Rajput explained. Quite a few shooters got the chance to take part in multiple events which helped them get back that feeling of dealing with high-pressure situations. The other positive was quite a few young shooters getting the chance to compete in a World Cup and a few of them medalled. Vijayveer, who clinched silver in the men's rapid fire 25m event, also clinched gold in the mixed event. While a few exceptional performances were put in by Indian shooters, the newly-introduced events skewed the medal picture in favour of the hosts. Quite a few events had very few participants.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Krishna-Vishnu pair goes down in final

Paris: The Indian pair of Krishna Prasad Garaga and Vishnu Vardhan Goud let slip a strong start to go down to England's Ben Lane and Sean Vendy in the men's doubles finals of the Orleans Masters badminton tournament here on Sunday. The unheralded Indians, the only ones left in contention from the country on the final day, lost 21-19, 14-21, 19-21.

Hamilton wins thrilling Bahrain GP

SAKHIR: Lewis Hamilton got his bid for an eighth world title off to a thrilling start with victory in the Bahrain Grand Prix on Sunday. Mercedes star Hamilton edged out pole-sitter Max Verstappen in his Red Bull, with Valtteri Bottas in the second Mercedes rounding out the podium.

Pandemic forced us to borrow money: CWI

LONDON: Cricket West Indies president Ricky Skerritt, who is aiming to be re-elected after a two-year term, has revealed that the Covid-19 pandemic forced them to borrow money to pay players and staff wages but the board's debt has reduced to a third in his tenure.

Chhetri says he has fully recovered from Covid

NEW DELHI: India's talismanic football captain Sunil Chhetri on Sunday said he has recovered from Covid-19, days after testing positive for the infection that ruled him out of the international friendlies against Oman and the UAE. The development came on the eve of India's second international friendly against UAE in Dubai.

LOCAL EXPRESS

CHAMPION STUFF

Swastic Union Cricket Club (2) beat Vultures Cricket Club by seven wickets in the KSCA Group I - I, II and III division U-16 inter club tournament final in Bengaluru on Sunday. Mankalesh RJ scalped five wickets as Vultures manged 181/9 in 50 overs. Swastic reached the target in the 34th over with Srujan Nandan unbeaten on 98 runs | EXPRESS

BFC Youth Academy clinch U-12 title

In what was a historic moment for Bengaluru FC Youth Academy, Rajan Mani's U-12 side bagged the KSFA Youth Premier League title with a 3-0 win against Roots Football Schools, joining the U-8s and U-10s as champions of their respective age groups in the competition, at the Bengaluru Football Stadium, on Sunday. Ningthoujam Newton Singh, Varun M and Puniachandra Kangjam scored for the winning team.

Willingness to take risks behind Gokulam's success

MARTIN JOSEPH @Kochi

VC Praveen, who is the president of newly-crowned I-League champions Gokulam Kerala FC, has very a simple formula when it comes to running a football club in India. "Our expenses remain the same whether we simply participate in a tournament or whether we win it. So the logic has always been to try and win in whatever competition we participate in," Praveen told this daily from Kolkata.

The club is the brainchild of Praveen as the Kerala-based business venture Sree Gokulam Group set up this Kozhikode-based outfit back in 2017. The Group previously had a failed venture in football with Viva Kerala FC, the club which got dissolved back in 2012. Running a football club in India involves risks but Gokulam were prepared to take it. "If you see, Parth Jindal (owner of Bengaluru FC) was not complaining when BFC kept on winning one title after another. Now, he is suggesting that losses are running into as much as Rs 25 crore. You can't run a football club in India without incurring losses. Even across the world, I don't know how many clubs are making profits. So trophies make up for it," he said.

And the journey has been slow and steady for the 'Malabarians' in that regard. Their first major silverware came in the form of the Kerala Premier League in 2017-18 and that was followed by the Durand Cup in 2019. Their women's team lifted the Indian Women's League title in 2020.

At the start of the 2020-21 I-League season, the club decided to rebuild the squad to have a shot at the big prize. They took the big call of parting ways with Fernando Varela, the veteran coach who had guided them to the KPL and Durand Cup titles (which included wins over East Bengal and Mohun Bagan).

The club also decided to call up a number of players from their academy and took the gamble of appointing a young Italian coach with no previous experience in India. Still only 36, Vincenzo Alberto Annese was always going to be a risk especially when he was replacing someone like Varela, who was snapped up by Churchill Brothers.

"We chose to let the coach decide the players (foreigners) rather than recruiting them through video analysis or scouting. Vincenzo was allowed to assemble his own team," said Praveen.

In came players like Dennis Antwi, Sharif Mukhammad and Philip Adjah, all of whom played a major role in the team's title triumph. However, it wasn't the best of starts to the season though as they slumped to defeats against Chennai City and Aizawl FC inside the first three games while trying to play a free-flowing style of football.

AXIS BANK

Retail Lending and Payment Group (Local Office/Branch): Axis Bank Limited, Plot No 41, Seshadri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560009. **Axis Bank Ltd.,** 3rd Floor, Gigaplex, NPC – 1, TTC Industrial Area, Mugalsan Road, Airoli, Navi Mumbai – 400 708. **Registered Office**: "Trishul", 3rd Floor Opp. Samartheshwar Temple Law Garden, Ellisbridge Ahmedabad – 380006

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 Sub Rule (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property is mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** on **03-May-2021** for recovery of **Rs.1,00,60,260/-** (Rupees One Crore Sixty thousand two hundred sixty Only) dues as on 29-12-2018 with future interest and costs due to the secured creditor from **1) M/s Swami Vivekananda Developers (Applicant)** Represented by its partners Mr. M. Prabhakar Rao & Mrs. M. Sandhya rani No. 547, Flat No 305, 3rd Floor, S R Enclave, Sadanandanagar, Bangalore-560038. **Also At**: Municipal No 3-4-489/1, Baraktapur Lingampally, Hyderabad-500001. **2) Mr M. Prabhakar Rao (Co-Applicant)** No. 547, Flat No 305, 3rd Floor, S R Enclave, Sadanandanagar, Bangalore-560038. **Also At:** Municipal No 3-4-489/1, Baraktapur Lingampally, Hyderabad-500001. **3) Mrs. M. Sandhya Rani (Co-Applicant)** No. 547, Flat No 305, 3rd Floor, S R Enclave, Sadanandanagar, Bangalore-560038. **Also At:** Municipal No 3-4-489/1, Baraktapur Lingampally, Hyderabad-500001. in Loan No. **PCR051401189584.** Please refer the appended auction schedule for necessary details:-

KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES (IF ANY)	Not known to the secured creditor. The unpaid charges towards electricity, maintenance , Tax etc. if any, as applicable
RESERVE PRICE (IN RS.)	**Rs. 1,12,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Twelve Lakhs Only)**
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT (IN RS.)	**Rs. 11,20,000/- (Rupees Eleven lakh twenty thousand only) through DD/PO in favor of 'Axis bank ltd.' payable at Bangalore.**
BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT	**Rs. 10,000/- (Rs. Ten Thousand only)**
LAST DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS / TENDER WITH EMD	**Till 30-Apr-2021 latest by 04:00 P.M. at Axis Bank Limited Plot No 41, Seshadri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560009, addressed to Mr. Raju B**
DATE, TIME, AND VENUE FOR PUBLIC E-AUCTION	On **03-May-2021, between 11.00 A.M and 12.00 Noon.** with unlimited extensions of 5 minutes each at web portal **https://www.bankeauctions.com** E-auction tender documents containing e-auction bid form, declaration etc., are available in the website of the Service Provider as mentioned above

SCHEDULE – DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Schedule "A" Property: All that semi-finished Eastern part of MEZZANINE Floor with a built up area of 1120 Sq.feet with proportionate undivided share of land to the extent of 15 Sq.yds out of 765 Sq.yds in the premises bearing municipal No.3-4-489/1 situated at Barkatpura, lingampally, Hyderabad and flat is bounded by: East: Open to Sky, West: Open to sky, North: Open to sky, South: Staircase & Western part of MEZZANINE Floor.
Schedule "B" Property: All that semi-finished Western part of MEZZANINE Floor with a built up area of 1120 Sq.feet with proportionate undivided share of land to the extent of 15 Sq.yds out of 765 Sq.yds in the premises bearing municipal No.3-4-489/1 situated at Barkatpura, lingampally, Hyderabad and flat is bounded by: East: Open to sky, West: Stair case & Flat No. G1, North: Eastern part of MEZZANINE Floor, South: Open to sky

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in the secured creditor's website i.e. **https://www.axisbank.com/auction-retail** and the Bank's approved service provider **M/S C1 India Private Limited at their web portal https://www.bankeauctions.com**
The auction will be conducted online through the Bank's approved service provider M/s.C1 India Private Limited at their web portal **https://www.bankeauctions.com.**
For any other assistance, the intending bidders may contact Mr. Raju B (Mobile. No. +91-9845660093) Authorized officer of the Bank during office hours from **9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m (Monday to Friday).**
This Notice should be considered as 30 Days' Notice to the Borrowers/Co-borrowers/Guarantors under Rule 9 Sub Rule (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules, 2002.

Date : 26.03.2021
Place: Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer
AXIS BANK LTD.,

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK

(A scheduled Bank owned by Government:Sponsored by Canara Bank)
Regional Office, Bengaluru – 560072 Karnataka
R & L Section
Ph: 080-23186095,23217079 : Email:br2504@kgbk.in
221, Manju mansions, 6th block, 2nd stage, 80 feet ring road, Opp BWSSB Office, Nagarabhavi, Bangalore – 560 072

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the **Karnataka Gramin Bank,** under the Securitization and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice calling upon the borrowers/ mortgagor/guarantor to repay the amount as mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the said Act, read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on date mentioned below
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
The Borrowers in particular and the public in general, is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charges of the **Karnataka Gramin Bank,** for an amount mentioned as follows and interest plus charges thereon, till the date of realization of due.

Sl No.1) Borrower : (1) Sri. Manjachari s/o Venkataramanachari, (2) Sri. Shankarachari s/o Manjachari (Mortgager), (3) Sri. Nagesh s/o Manjachari (Mortgager) (4) Kumari. Bhavani d/o Manjachari (Minor represented by Natural Guardian Sri. Manjachari) All are R/at Battaramaranahalli (V), Budigere (P), Devanahalli (Tq), Bangalore rural (D)-562129, **Guarantor: Sri. Ramaiah H s/o Hanumappa** R/at Battaramaranahalli (V), Budigere (P), Devanahalli (Tq), Bangalore rural (D)-562129
Branch : Mylanahalli Possession Notice Dated: 23/03/2021, Demand Notice Dated: 10/03/2020,
Outstanding Loan Amount : Rs. 3,06,978/- (Rupees Three Lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight only) as on 26/02/2021 and interest from **27/02/2021.**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the House property is having Site No.146/30/13 (old No. Sy.No.13) measuring E-W-32 feet and N-S-42 feet situated at Battaramaranahalli (V), Channarayapattana (H), Devanahalli (Tq), Bangalore Rural. This Property is in the name of Sri **Manjachari s/o Venkataramanachari.**
Bounded On the East by: Road, **On the West by:** Property of Muniyachari,
On the North by: Property of Thimmarayappa, **On the South by :** Property of Muniyappa.

Sl No.2) Borrower : (1) Sri. C. Munivenkatappa s/o Channappa. (2) Smt. K. Anitha w/o C Munivenkatappa, (3) Master. D. M. Bharath s/o C. Munivenkatappa (Mortgager Minor represented by C. Munivenkatappa & K. Anitha) (4) Kumari. D. M. Amulya d/o C.Munivenkatappa (Mortgager Minor represented by C. Munivenkatappa & K. Anitha) All are R/at Doddajala (V), Jala (H), Bangalore-562149.
Branch : Mylanahalli Possession Notice Dated: 23/03/2021, Demand Notice Dated: 11/03/2020,
Outstanding Loan Amount : Rs. 8,24,658/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Eight only) as on 12/03/2021 and interest from **13/03/2021.**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property is having (1) Khatha No.266/238/28 measuring E-W-50 feet and N-S-58 feet situated at Doddajala, Jala (H), Bangalore North (Tq) (2) Vacant Site Having Khatha No.535/535 measuring E-W-40 feet and N-S-28 feet situated at Doddajala, Jala (H), Bangalore North (Tq) (3) Vacant Site Having Khatha No.43/1 measuring E-W-30 feet and N-S-40 feet situated at Doddajala, Jala (H), Bangalore North (Tq) (4) Vacant Site having Khatha No.43/2/1 measuring E-W-30 feet and N-S-27 feet situated at Doddajala, Jala (H), Bangalore North (Tq) . This Property is in the name of **Sri C Munivenkatappa s/o Channappa and Smt K Anitha w/o C Munivenkatappa, Bounded :**

On the East by	Road	Site No.2 & 3	Site No.2	Balance portion of Site No.2
On the West by	K Anitha's Property	Thotinarayanappa's Property	Land of Sy.No.43	Site No.1
On the North by	Krishnappa's Property	Vacant Space	Road	Road
On the South by	Rajakaluve	Rajakaluve	Park	Park

Sl No.3) Borrower : (1) Sri. N. V. Konappa s/o Venkatarayappa (2) Sri. N. V. Nandakishore s/o N. V. Konappa Both are R/at No.72/72 (1/95), Srinivasa Nilaya, 29th main, 28th cross, Kondappa Layout, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064.
Guarantor: Sri. Venkatachalaiah s/o Chikkananjappa R/at Amco Batteries Ltd, No.1768, 9th Cross, 2nd main, Chowdeshwari Layout, Yelahanka-560064.
Branch : Mylanahalli Possession Notice Dated: 23/03/2021, Demand Notice Dated: 11/03/2020,
Outstanding Loan Amount : Rs. 11,29,692/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety Two only) as on 15/03/2021 and interest from **16/03/2021.**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property having Property No.72, old Khatha No.72/72, new Khatha No.395/383/127/72/72, measuring E-W-15 feet and N-S-40 feet situated at Chowdeshwari Layout, Yelahanka old town, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560064. This Property is in the name of **Sri N V Konappa s/o Venkatarayappa. Bounded On the East by:** Site No.71, **On the West by:** Site No.72,
On the North by: Road, **On the South by :** Site No.80.

Sl No.4) Borrower : (1) Smt. Mahalakshmamma w/o Byrappa (2) Sri Girish B s/o Byrappa Both are R/at No.122, 3rd cross, Kebbehalla, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, Srigandhadakavalu, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore-560091
Guarantor: Sri Narayana s/o Ramachandrappa R/at No.64, Kebbehalla, Rajeev Gandhi Nagar, Srigandhadakavalu, Sunkadakatte, Bangalore-560091.
Branch : Mylanahalli Possession Notice Dated: 23/03/2021, Demand Notice Dated: 29/02/2020,
Outstanding Loan Amount : Rs. 20,42,879/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Nine only) as on 17/03/2021 and interest from **18/03/2021.**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property having Site no.122, formed in Sy.No.43 & 44/1 measuring E-W-49 feet and N-S-15 feet situated at Presently within the limit of BBMP Bangalore ward No.129, Srigandhadakavalu (V), Yeshwanthpura (H), Bangalore North (Tq). This Property is in the name of **Smt. Mahalakshmamma w/o Byrappa. Bounded On the East by:** Road, **On the West by:** Site of Nagaraj,
On the North by: Puttalingaiah's Site, **On the South by :** Bhagyamma Byrappa

Sl No: 5) Borrower : (1)Sri. Rakesh G s/o Gangadhar (2) Smt. Manjamma w/o Gangadhar Both are R/at Varamahalakshmi Textiles, Budhigere main road, Bagaluru, Jala (H)-562149. **(3) Sri. N. Maregowda s/o Late Narayanappa (Guarantor & Mortgager) (4) Smt. N. Mamatha w/o Maregowda (Guarantor & Mortgager)** Both are R/at No.661/A, Bagaluru (V) & (P), Jala (H), Bengalore-562149
Branch : Mylanahalli Possession Notice Dated: 23/03/2021, Demand Notice Dated: 09/03/2020,
Outstanding Loan Amount : Rs. 12,98,760/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty only) as on 26/02/2021 and interest from **27/02/2021.**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property having Khatha No.54/43/42, khaneshumari No.32 measuring E-W-39 feet and N-S-30 feet situated at Bagaluru (V), Bangalore North (Tq), Bangalore. This Property is in the name of **Sri N Maregowda s/o Late Sri Narayanappa & Smt N Mamatha w/o Maregowda. Bounded On the East by:** House of Doddavenkatappa, **On the West by:** Road,
On the North by: Road, **On the South by :** House of B P Venkatachalappa.

Sl No: 6) Borrower : (1) Smt. Rathnamma w/o Ramachandara (Borrower & Mortgager) (2) Sri. Narayanappa s/o Ramachandra Both are R/at No.64, Sy.No.44/1, Srigandhadakavalu (V), Yeshwanthpura (H), Bengaluru North-560091. **Guarantor : Sri. Srinath K s/o Krishnappa K P** R/at No.139, 3rd cross, Kebbehalla, Rajivgandhinagar, Sunkadakatte, Bengaluru-560091
Branch : Mylanahalli Possession Notice Dated: 23/03/2021, Demand Notice Dated: 08/12/2020,
Outstanding Loan Amount : Rs. 19,85,390/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Eighty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety only) as on 12/03/2021 and interest from **13/03/2021.**
Description of the Immovable Property : All that part and parcel of the property having Site No.64, Assessment No.44/1, Previously within the limit of Yeshwanthpura (H), presently within the limit of Rajarajeshwarinagar CMC ward No.129 measuring E-W-55 feet and N-S-30 feet totally measuring 1650 Sq.Ft situated at Srigandhadakavalu (V), Yeshwanthpura (H), Bangalore North (Tq), Bangalore. This Property is in the name of **Smt Rathnamma w/o Ramachandra. Bounded On the East by:** Smt Prema's Property, **On the West by:** Road,
On the North by: Smt.Lingamma's Property, **On the South by :** Sri Thimmaiah's Property

Date : 23.03.2021
Place : Bengaluru
Authorised Officer, KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK,
AUTHORISED OFFICER

A food preservative used to prolong the shelf life of almost 1,250 other popular processed foods may harm the immune system, a study in *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* suggests. The preservative tert-butylhydroquinone, or TBHQ, has been found to harm the immune system.

Crews try to use high tides to free ship in Suez Canal

Ships rerouted around Cape of Good Hope (see map) to avoid more delays

TRADE

SUEZ: Two additional tugboats sped Sunday to Egypt's Suez Canal to aid efforts to free a skyscraper-sized container ship wedged for days across the crucial waterway, even as major shippers increasingly divert their boats out of fear the vessel may take even longer to free.

The massive Ever Given, a Panama-flagged, Japanese-owned ship that carries cargo between Asia and Europe, got stuck Tuesday in a single-lane stretch of the canal. In the time since, authorities have been unable to remove the vessel and traffic through the canal — valued at over $9 billion a day — has been halted, further disrupting a global shipping network already strained by Covid-19.

The Dutch-flagged Alp Guard and the Italian-flagged Carlo Magno, called in to help tugboats already there, reached the Red Sea near the city of Suez early Sunday, satellite data from MarineTraffic.com showed. The tugboats will nudge the 400-meter-long Ever Given as dredgers continue to vacuum up sand from underneath the vessel and mud caked to its port side, said Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement, which manages the Ever Given.

Excavators dug Sunday on the eastern wall of the Canal, hoping to free the bulbous bow of the Ever Given that plowed into the embankment, satellite photos showed.

Workers planned to make two attempts Sunday to free the vessel coinciding with high tides helped by a full moon Sunday night, a top pilot with the canal authority said. The full moon offers a spring tide, or king tide, in which high tides are higher and the low tides are lower because of the effects of gravity during a straight-line alignment of the Earth, the moon and the sun.

Prospect of more delay

Taking containers off the ship likely would add even more days to the canal's closure, something authorities have been desperately trying to avoid. It also would require a crane and other equipment that have yet to arrive.

The world's biggest shipping company, Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk, said that by the end of the weekend, a total of 32 Maersk and partner vessels would be directly affected by the blockage, with 15 redirected.

Mediterranean Shipping Co., the world's second-largest shipper, said it already had rerouted at least 11 ships around the Cape of Good Hope to avoid the canal.

EXFILE TRADE

THE ARCTIC ALTERNATIVE

The massive ship wedged across the Suez Canal is posing a growing threat to the world's modern world's supply chains, reminding us of their fragility and the need for alternative trade routes. We present an overview of the main Asia-Europe maritime routes, with a focus on the much-talked-about Northern Sea Route, seen as a potential competitor to the Suez shortcut

NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

Thawing of the Arctic Sea Ice is slowly opening up new economic venues for global trade, with Russia keen to capitalise on this trade route close to its land borders. The advantage with NSR is that it significantly reduces the Asia-Europe travel time for ships

The route is studied mostly for its long-term potential, as NSR's navigation season is only for 3-4 months a year. For most of the year, Russian icebreakers accompany cargo ships — the ice has not thawed for around-the-year passage of vessels that are not ice-class (heavily reinforced)

The unpredictable ice conditions continue to make the route unfeasible, reports say. The modest cargo volumes also reflect the unwillingness of ship owners

Major maritime trade routes between Asia and Europe

Map shows shipping routes as well as differences in transit times and cargo volumes between Suez Canal and the Northern Sea Route

THE INDIAN CONNECTION

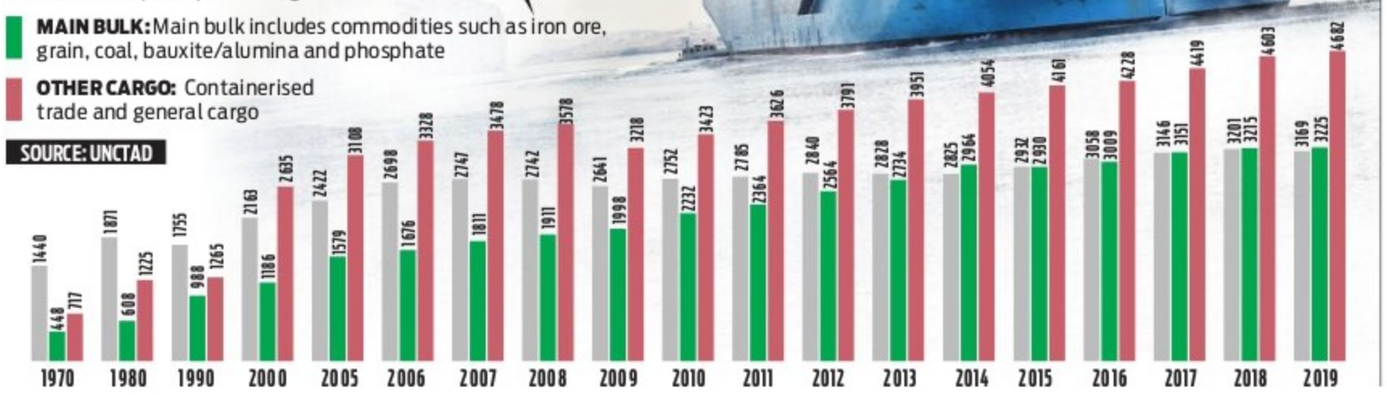
India has inked an MoU with Russia for a maritime route between Chennai and Vladivostok, an eastern port city in Russia. This may connect India to the Northern Sea Route in the future

GROWTH OF GLOBAL MARITIME TRADE

NUMBERS IN MILLIONS OF TONNES LOADED ONTO SHIPS

- **TANKER TRADE:** Tanker trade includes crude oil, refined petro products, gas and chemicals
- **MAIN BULK:** Main bulk includes commodities such as iron ore, grain, coal, bauxite/alumina and phosphate
- **OTHER CARGO:** Containerised trade and general cargo

SOURCE: UNCTAD



Covid stress made people smoke more, US data shows

HEALTH

WASHINGTON: A year after Covid-19 upended life across the globe, there are troubling signs that the coronavirus may have also slowed progress against another deadly health threat: Smoking.

Fewer smokers in the US called quit-smoking hotlines last year and some smoked more, contributing to an unusual bump in cigarette sales — all in the middle of the stress, anxiety and uncertainty from the pandemic. "It's hard for folks to quit using tobacco in the best of times, so what happens when life is suddenly turned upside down?" said Jen Cash, who oversees Minnesota's anti-tobacco programs.

Calls to states routed through a national hotline fell 27% last year to about 500,000 — the biggest drop in a decade, according to the North American Quitline Consortium. In a recent report, the coalition of anti-smoking counselors cited the pandemic and the drop in public awareness messaging.

In a separate survey of 1,000 adult smokers, Nancy Rigotti of Harvard Medical School and her colleagues found about a third reported smoking more during the first six months of the pandemic.

Research has linked other traumatic events to relapses among ex-smokers, including after the 9/11 attacks. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it's too early to gauge the pandemic's impact on smoking rates. Because smoking overlaps with many other forms of addiction, the data on quit attempts is being closely watched by doctors.

LOUD AND CLEAR

Musicians play drums and *karnal*, a large traditional Himachali instrument, during Holi celebrations in Kullu on Sunday | PTI

India-origin boy finds ancient fossil

MEDICINE

PARIS: A six-year-old Indian-origin boy says he is 'really excited' after he found a fossil from millions of years ago while digging in his garden in West Midlands, England.

Siddak Singh Jhamat was using a fossil-hunting set he received as a Christmas present when he came across a rock that looked like a horn.

"I was just digging for worms and things like pottery and bricks and I just came across this rock which looked a bit like a horn, and thought it could be a tooth or a claw or a horn, but it was actually a piece of coral which is called horn coral," the schoolboy said.

"I was really excited about what it really was," he said.

The BBC said his father Vish Singh was able to identify the horn coral through a fossil group on Facebook and estimates the fossil is between 251 to 488 million years old. "We were surprised he found something so odd-shaped in the soil... he found a horn coral, and some smaller pieces next to it, then the next day he went digging again and found a congealed block of sand," he said. "In that there were loads of little molluscs and sea shells, and something called a crinoid, which is like a tentacle of a squid, so it's quite a prehistoric thing."

Some virus strains less susceptible to antibodies: Study

RESEARCH

BERLIN: Variant forms of the novel coronavirus which were first reported in South Africa and Brazil are less efficiently inhibited by antibodies from recovered patients and vaccinated individuals, a new study confirms. The research in *Cell* found that recovery from Covid-19 as well as vaccination may offer only incomplete protection against these mutant virus forms.

"This is worrisome because the rapid spread of variants that might not be efficiently inhibited by antibodies could undermine our current vaccination strategy," said Stefan Pohlmann, a co-author of the study from the German Primate Center in Gottingen.

These virus variants have mutations in the spike protein -- the structure on the surface of the virus that is responsible for attachment to host cells -- the researchers said.

In order for the virus to enter a cell, they said it must first attach to the host cell surface using its spike protein, which is located on the viral envelope. The spike protein is also the target for antibody therapies and vaccines aimed at preventing the virus from replicating in the body, they researchers added.

Based on the research, the scientists said an antibody used for COVID-19 therapy did not inhibit the South African and Brazilian coronavirus variants -- B.1.351 and P.1.

"Moreover, these variants were less well inhibited by antibodies from convalescent or vaccinated individuals, they partially bypassed the neutralising effect of the antibodies," said Jan Munch, another co-author of the study.

The study noted that vaccination or recovery from COVID-19 may offer reduced protection from SARS-CoV-2 variants B.1.351 and P.1.

"Our findings show that it is important to limit the spread of the virus as much as possible until widespread vaccination is feasible. he currently available vaccines," said Markus Hoffmann, first author of the study.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Toll revised up 60% in Mexico

DATA

Mexico's government acknowledged on Saturday that the country's true death toll from the coronavirus pandemic now stands above 321,000, almost 60% more than the official test-confirmed number of 201,429. Mexico does little testing, and because hospitals were overwhelmed, many Mexicans died at home without getting a test. The only way to get a clear picture is to review "excess deaths" and review death certificates. On Saturday, the government quietly published such a report, which found there were 294,287 deaths linked to COVID-19 from the start of the pandemic through Feb. 14. Since Feb. 15 there have been an additional 26,772 test-confirmed deaths. The higher toll would rival that of Brazil, which currently has the world's second-highest number of deaths.

Zoom therapy for chimps

TECHNOLOGY

Two Czech zoos have installed large screens to let their chimpanzees watch each other via Zoom, an attempt to relieve the boredom during closures enforced by coronavirus restrictions. The video chat platform, which has become a fixture for many humans over the past year, allows apes at the Safari Park in Dvur Kralove nad Labem northeast of Prague to see their peers at a zoo in the second city of Brno. "We are trying to ensure some entertainment for our apes at a time when visitors cannot come to the zoo and these intelligent animals therefore lack an important entertaining stimulus," a Safari Park spokesman said. The Safari Park is home to one male chimpanzee and five females, who enjoy sitting in front of the large screen, munching on salad.

GENOME SEQUENCING

Variant hunters race to stay ahead of coronavirus mutations

SCIENCE

LONDON :On March 4, 2020, when there were just 84 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the UK, professor Sharon Peacock recognised that the country needed to expand its capacity to analyze the genetic makeup of the virus.

The Cambridge University microbiologist understood that genomic sequencing would be crucial in tracking the disease, controlling outbreaks and developing vaccines. So she began working with colleagues around the country to put together a plan. Within a month, the government had provided 20 million pounds to fund their work.

The initiative helped make Britain a world leader in rapidly analyzing the genetic material from large numbers of Covid-19 infections, generating more than 40% of the genomic sequences identified to date. These days, their top priority is finding new variants that are more dangerous or resistant to vaccines, information that is critical to helping researchers modify the vaccines or develop new ones to combat the ever-changing virus.

"They've shown the world how you do this," said Dr. Eric Topol, chair of innovative medicine at Scripps Research in San Diego, California.

Positive Covid-19 tests from hospitals and community testing programs around the country are sent to a network of 17 laboratories, where scientists extract the genetic material from each swab and analyse it to identify that virus' unique genetic code. The sequences are then cross-referenced with public health data to better understand how, where and why COVID-19 is spreading.

A lab assistant uses a pipette to prepare coronavirus RNA for sequencing at the Wellcome Sanger Institute | AP

When mutations in the virus correspond with an otherwise unexplained increase in cases, that's a clue that a new variant of concern is circulating.

The importance of genomic sequencing became obvious late last year as the number of new infections began to spike in southeastern England. When cases continued to rise despite tough local restrictions, public health officials went to work to find out why.

The scientific sleuthing is crucial, but it's like looking for a needle in a haystack. Researchers must sift through the genetic sequences from thousands of harmless variants to find the rare dangerous ones, Peacock said.

Major cities mark Earth Hour

CLIMATE

From Singapore to Buenos Aires, cities around the world turned off their lights Saturday to mark Earth Hour, with this year's event highlighting the link between the destruction of nature and increasing outbreaks of diseases like Covid-19. After starting in Asia, the call to action on climate change made its way around a planet reeling from the coronavirus pandemic. As the day came to an end, it was the turn of the Americas, where the lights dimmed at the Obelisk in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro's Museum of Tomorrow and the BBVA tower in Mexico City. In London, the Houses of Parliament, London Eye Ferris wheel, Shard skyscraper and neon signs of Piccadilly Circus were among the landmarks flicking the switches. "It's fantastic news that parliament once again is taking part in Earth Hour, joining landmarks across the country and the world to raise awareness of climate change," said Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons. In Paris, the three stages of the Eiffel Tower progressively went dark but there were few people to watch with the whole country under a 7 pm Covid-19 curfew.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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29.03.2021
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Sepoy mutiny

During the First War of Independence, Sepoy Mangal Panday refused to use the pig lard-greased cartridges and broke into open mutiny on this day in 1857, at Barrackpore near Calcutta

HANGED TO DEATH

Surrounded by guards and European officers, he tried to commit suicide by shooting himself and was seriously wounded. He was court-martialled on April 6 and hanged at Barrackpore on April 8, 1857

IN THE ARMY

Pandey joined the army of the British East India Company in 1849. He was a sepoy (soldier) in the 34th Regiment of the Bengal Native Infantry of the British East India Company

MEMORIAL AND STATUE

The Mangal Pandey park in Barrackpore has a statue of him and a memorial dedicated to him. There is a baby elephant statue raising his trunk as a mark of respect in front of the statue

Salaga pre-release event at Hosapete on April 10

PG 4

Ram Bhandari, who has repaired the bats of B'luru cricketers like Rahul Dravid and Manish Pandey, is now gearing up to open a sports shop in the city to sell cricket equipment

NEW INNINGS, SAME OLD GUSTO

Ram Bhandari is currently repairing bats for state cricket players | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

SANATH PRASAD

SITTING in a 10*10 garage in Uttarahalli, Ram Bhandari may look like any other regular Bengalurean. But interestingly, this city resident has had a huge role to play in how cricketing legends have performed on field. Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, Virendra Sehwag, Virat Kohli, Andre Russell, Venkatesh Prasad, Anil Kumble, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly have all had Bhandari to thank for modifying or repairing their bats.

Previously having worked as a garbage truck driver, bouncer and carpenter, Bhandari – often known as 'India's bat doctor' – is also gearing up to assume a new role: Of opening a sports shop, one that sells only cricket equipment. "My workshop does not have any advanced machinery or technology to repair the bats. I manage to work with the tools I already have. Moreover, it is sometimes just the heart I apply into my work," says Bhandari, who will feature on History TV18's 'OMG! Yeh Mera India' on Monday.

He is also busy repairing more than 50 bats for the Under-14, Under-19 and Under-23 state cricket players in his small workshop garage in Uttarahalli. "My vision is to help small-time players get a good grip on their bat. I will continue to help them by modifying their bat to fit their body language," says Bhandari.

A conversation with Bhandari is filled with many anecdotes and the memories he has of cricketers and their choice of customising bats. "Sachin prefers a short handle and a lightweight bat. Mahi (Dhoni) likes to keep it a little heavy since he is a middle-order batsman. If I am satisfied with the feel of the bat, I am absolutely sure that the cricketers also will be fine with it," he says. Bhandari also jogs his memory to 2007, when Tendulkar's injury due to the heavy-handedness of the bat had upset the then coach Greg Chappel. "Sachin gave me his bat for repair. I first weighed the bat and found that it was very heavy. I then reduced the weight, gave the right balance and stroke and delivered it to Sachin after two days, saying this modification will fit well for the match. In the first match of the Asia Cup 2007 in Malaysia, he scored 154, then in the second match he scored 144," he says. The story doesn't end there. "I did not have a weighing machine so I used the one in a hotel that was used for weighing sweets. This idea was once told to me by Dhoni," he adds.

But besides his sheer dedication to the job, other tools like a compressor, scale and grinding machine, also help Bhandari with the task. These alone have helped modify the dynamics of the cricket bat, giving it the right stroke, curve, balance, weight and height for the cricketers to pack a punch.

Bhandari says, "The cricket bats have given me livelihood for 20 years now. I don't have any other job apart from this so my relationship with bats will be never-ending."

Rahul Dravid

WHAT'S IN A BAT?

Sachin Tendulkar	MS Dhoni	Yuvraj Singh	Virender Sehwag
A lightweight bat with a short handle	Prefers a bat that is on the heavier side	Prefers a bat that is heavier and with a short handle	Short handle and lightweight bat

My workshop does not have advanced machinery. I work with tools I already have - **Ram Bhandari**

Natasha Celmi, a city-based chef, cookbook author and food blogger, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday. The first prize winner for this week will also receive two 'Ninja Meal' vouchers for a five-course lunch, worth ₹888 (approx) each at Misu, Prestige Trade Towers**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Floating pani puri 2) It was first created in 1965 3) Rice

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Pranathi Dixit
2) Sanjana S Mathias
3) Sukruth Anand

**Conditions apply

By The Way

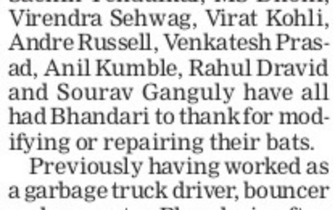
STORY TIME

Author Anita Nair has a lot to be excited about these days. She took to Instagram to share a glimpse of what she's been working on. Her first book, *Satyr of the Subway*, will soon be an audiobook by storytel.in. Sharing the news, she wrote, "If writing the book was a labour of love, so was reading it out. A singular experience that was as exhausting as it was heady." Here's to a fun new chapter!

CITY READ

Applications for JLPT open till April 4

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), conducted by The Japan Foundation twice a year, will be conducted on July 4. This exam is taken by students for both higher studies and employment purposes. Last year the exam was cancelled both times due to the pandemic. With well-equipped centralised audio systems managed by sound engineers, and Covid-19 measures of social distancing in place, Bangalore Nihongo Kyooshikai, the JLPT administrative body for Bengaluru, is gearing for a safe and smooth exam process. Currently, the application process is online and is open until April 4. Link for registration: https://jlpt.bnkindia.in/



Company pays tribute to Covid warriors

Muthoot Finance launched a 'Salute to Covid-19 Warriors' project to honor healthcare professionals associated with Covid-19 activities. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Bangalore unit of Indian Medical Association (IMA). The Covid warriors were selected by a committee headed by IMA, which examined the individual applications of medical professionals.

Young B'lureans take charge of infra woes

EXPRESS FEATURES

BENGALURU'S traffic woes are talking points world-over. Which is why some citizen groups are trying to revive and re-modify the modes of commuting in the city with young and fresh minds. 'Bengaluru Moving' is a campaign spearheaded by a social enterprise Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC) and city-based urban living lab Sensing Local, which empowers young volunteers to take up activism to create awareness on sustainable modes of mobility. Known as Mobility Champions, the programme is the second phase mission under the campaign which concludes on April 4. Speaking of the involvement of youth, Sukhmani Grover, director, Citizen Engagement, says, "Youngsters are the torch bearers of this initiative. It is their passion, skills and innovative ideas that paves the way for the future of mobility. Their creative spirits are shaping the future narrative of sustainable mobility which is inclusive and centred around non-motorised transport. This along with a gender sensitive policy approach is a step in the direction of sustainable mobility."

They have collaborated with 15 mobility champions who are given charge of three different segments – walking, cycling and shared transportation. Tanushree Dalmiya, a 26-year-old architect, who managed the transportation segment in Doddanekundi last week, says, "As youth, we are more motivated and better equipped than our older generations to be socially and environmentally active and make our voices heard. Such campaigns are essential in cultivating youth activism and empowering younger generations to build a better future." Similarly, the young group has also conducted cycling and walking workshops at Church Street, Indiranagar and Malleswaram to create awareness on non-motorised ways of commuting. Karan Prasad, 24, a developer at a tech startup, says, "I am managing the footpath initiative in Malleswaram. We are planning to provide accessible footpath infrastructure to senior citizens. The city has given me so much and it is time to give back now."

Learn more about one of namma ooru's oldest surviving bookstore through this new documentary, which features the 92-yr-old owner of Select Book Shop

MONIKA MONALISA

BENGALURU sure has come a long way since its days of being a 'pensioner's paradise'. But even today, it's possible to find hidden nooks and corners that tell a story of the city's past. One such spot is Select Book Store on Brigade Road, which is one of the city's oldest surviving book shops. It is also the star of city-based documentary filmmaker Adithyaa Sadashiv's latest film, *The Selected Book*, which released on March 28 on his YouTube channel Vinayas Studios.

The book store was started in 1946 by KBK Rao, a lawyer by profession. In the movie, his son KKS Murthy speaks about the journey. Sadashiv reveals that it took him only a couple of informal meetings with Murthy to make this documentary. "To be honest, I had not visited the store as much as I would have liked to before the shoot. And I had met Mr Murthy only a couple of times during book fairs in the city," says Sadashiv, who was blown away by Murthy's 'down to earth' nature. He goes on to explain how the book store has been untouched by time and has stuck it out despite competition. Produced by his production house, Vinayas Studios, the film aims to capture a slice, or rather chapter, of the city's heritage and culture.

"The book shop is not very well-organised. You might even find cobwebs here but the place still holds warmth and welcomes bibliophiles. That was the vibe given by KBK Rao, and now Mr Murthy, who is currently 92 years old, is carrying it forward," says the 25-year-old filmmaker. Recalling an instance, he shares how he had picked a four volume play by the playwright Anton Chekhov from the store but had no money to pay for it. Seeing his passion for the playwright, Murthy let him have the series on credit. "You don't see this kind of generosity these days," he says.

KKS Murthy in a still from the film

Homage to HISstory

Mr Murthy and I would have a long chat while shooting. It was difficult to cut any part because everything sounded straight out of a book

- **Adithyaa Sadashiv, filmmaker**

Ruskin Bond in front of the store

SNEAK PEEK

- The documentary is 40-minutes long
- Select Book Shop was started by KBK Rao in the garage of a gentleman called Robertson, whom he had met at a book auction
- KKS Murthy worked in HAL for 18 years before joining the bookstore
- Some of the regular visitors to the book store were authors like Ruskin Bond, who visited whenever he was in the city
- The documentary also shows an impromptu telephonic conversation between Mr Murthy and Ruskin Bond

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

HOLI FEAST

The festive offerings at this cafe are available only for dine-in and it offers special Holi delicacies that include some varieties of Khichdi, and desserts like Gujiya, Chenna Gujiya, Coconut Gujiya and more.
When: Till March 31
Where: Justbe Resto Café, Sadashiva Nagar

CHOCO TREAT

Indulge in an eggless homemade Chocolate Pudding Parfait. The pudding is layered with pieces of fresh chocolate cake, whipped cream and chocolate shavings.
When: Ongoing
Where: Magnolia Bakery at Phoenix Marketcity

MEDITERRANEAN DELIGHT

Foodhall's new Mediterranean Cafe Menu features Za'atar Avo Toast, Herb Mushroom Talleggio Toast, Marrakesh Couscous Bowl, and more. These new dishes can be paired them with Frozen Hot Chocolate and Passionfruit and Thyme Lemonade.
When: Ongoing **Where:** Foodhall@1 MG, MG Road

EASTER BRUNCH

Bring in Easter with a brunch, a live band setting and an array of dishes like antipasti, cheeses of the world, fresh salads, watermelon gazpacho and pineapple, seafood station, pizza and more.
When: April 4, 12.30pm onwards
Where: CUR8, Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru

PLAY TIME: Watch actor Revathy in a solo piece in the play 1, Madhav Baug. When & where: April 3, 3.30pm, Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar

Wonder Woman range

SUGAR Cosmetics launches their first-ever product collaboration SUGAR X WONDER WOMAN. The range debuts a bravely-pigmented lipsticks in three finishes and two fearless mixed palettes – 24-HR Lip Lacquer, Creamy Matte Lipstick, Everlasting Matte Lipstick, Mixed Palette - 01 Cosmos Conqueror and Mixed palette - 02 Primal President. The range is priced from `599. **Available at:** www.sugarcosmetics.com and all SUGAR exclusive stores and kiosks

Spring special

Starbucks' Spring line-up includes Mango Popper Frappuccino, Salted Caramel Cloud Macchiato, Caramel Cloud Macchiato, Salted Caramel Cold brew, (Salted Caramel) Nitro Cold Brew, Salted Caramel Mocha, Salted Caramel Mocha Frappuccino, Chocolate Caramel Crunch, Chocolate Caramel Crunch Frappuccino, and Frappuccino of Colours. Their limited-edition merchadise is inspired by cherry blossoms.

Pop of colour

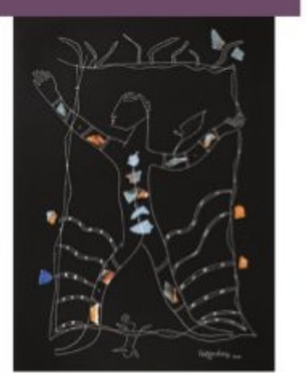
Celebrate the festival of colours with an array of dumplings, assembled using all-natural vegetable puree. The menu includes Charcoal Prawn Dumplings made using squid ink, Mandarin River Sole dumplings, Wild Mushroom Purple Dumplings and more. **When:** Till March 31
Where: Sriracha, UB City and Indiranagar

Tea tales

VAHDAM India has rolled out two new flavours of its matcha blends – Cocoa Japanese Matcha Green Tea and Ashwagandha Japanese Matcha Green Tea. They are low in calorie, keto-friendly and vegan. They are priced at `699 for 50 gm. The company also offers matcha blends such as Vanilla Matcha Superfood Green Tea, Turmeric Matcha Superfood Green Tea, Moringa Matcha Superfood Green Tea, Mint Matcha Superfood Green Tea powder, and Pure Japanese Matcha Green Tea. These are priced at `499 for 50 gm.
Available at: www.vahdamteas.in

Pupper party

Pet Fed is bringing a Pupper Party at URU Brewpark. The idea behind this is to bring together pet parents over breakfast. The event will also have games for humans and dogs. **When:** April 4, 8-11.30am
Where: URU Brewpark, Bannerghatta Road



Art exhibition

An exhibition of collages by S G Vasudev has been extended till this weekend.
When: Till April 3
Where: Gallery Sumukha, Wilson Garden

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

CABBAGE BREAD SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- **Bread:** 2 slices
- **Cabbage:** 1/2 cup, chopped finely
- **Onion:** 1/4 cup
- **Green chilli:** 1
- **Turmeric powder:** a pinch
- **Salt** to taste
- **Coriander leaves:** 1 tsp, chopped

METHOD

- Heat a kadai and add oil. Cook cabbage till soft. Add onion, green chillies, turmeric powder and salt.
- Heat a tawa. Melt butter/ghee. Toast the bread slices on both sides. Spread cooked vegetable filling on one side. Garnish with coriander leaves. Place the other slice on top of it.
- Serve hot with tomato sauce.

— Anu Rajagopal, Chennai

FIT BIT

PARIVRTTA USTRASANA

(REVOLVED CAMEL POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'parivrtta' means twisted or revolved, 'ustra' means camel and 'asana' means pose. It is a kneeling posture that serves as an intermediate backbend and chest-opener. Traditionally, it opens three chakras or energy centers in the body – Anahata (heart), Vishuddha (throat) and Sahasrara (crown). Anahata is associated with love, compassion and forgiveness. Visuddha and Sahasrara are spiritual chakras. Visuddha is associated with a higher communication, authentic expression and the yogi's highest truth. Sahasrara is the connection to the divine and the source of enlightenment. This has a range of physical benefits, including stimulating digestion, and is thought to be effective for reducing stress, anxiety and fatigue.

STEPS

- Come into Virasana (Hero Pose).
- Hold your feet with your hands.
- Inhale, and raise your pelvis up and away from your feet, advancing your abdominal area. Tuck your tailbone.
- Keep your upper legs straight, perpendicular to the ground.
- Keep your shins and feet firm on the floor. Grasp your feet firmly.
- Now, pull up your navel as you lift and you feel your back curving naturally.
- Hold your right feet with your right hand strongly; gradually attempt to lift your left arm up towards the roof.
- Try to come to up without raising your hips, feet or legs.
- When you lift, your body twists a little. But then keep your hips square as you attempt to adjust your shoulders upwards.
- Try to remain in this position as long as you can. Beginners can remain for 30 to 60 seconds.
- To release, slowly get back to Virasana, keep your leg straight, take a deep breath and relax. Keep both hands alongside your body.
- You can again do this asana with your opposite hand and leg.
- Do a minimum 10 repetitions for better result.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens the back, abdomen, legs and hips.
- Improves posture and helps prevent back pain.
- Improves digestive health and helps prevent various types of digestion-related issues.
- Improves sexual performance.
- Improves flexibility in the spine and helps to keep it straight.
- Stimulates the thyroid and parathyroid glands.
- Increases blood flow to the brain thereby calming the mind and releasing stress.

LIMITATIONS

- People suffering from severe injuries in back, hip, ankle or knee, have had recent surgery in the back or waist, and those with spinal column ailments, avoid this.
- Those with high or low BP, do under supervision.
- Those with severe headache or hernia should avoid this.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

DEATH, SEX & MONEY

This podcast addresses the big questions and hard choices that are often left out of polite conversation. Host Anna Sale talks to people about relationships, money, family, work and making it all count while we're here.
● On Apple Podcasts

MASTERS OF SCALE WITH REID HOFFMAN

Iconic CEOs – from Nike to Netflix, Starbucks to Slack – share the stories & strategies that helped them grow from start-ups into global brands.
● On Spotify

THIS MOVIE CHANGED ME

In each episode, host and lifelong movie fanatic Lily Percy guides guests to explore and celebrate the transformative role movies play in their lives.
● On Apple Podcasts

BECOMING WISE

This podcast offers depth and discovery in the time it takes to make a cup of tea. Each episode is curated from hundreds of big conversations with wise and graceful lives.
● On Apple Podcasts

THE YES THEORY PODCAST

Yes Theory co-founders Matt, Ammar, and Thomas are turning off the cameras and turning on the mics to reflect upon how discomfort actually might hold the keys to meaning and happiness.
● On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

SAARATHI

Rukmini is forcefully taken hostage by her enemy, Pratap, who wants to marry her. When Raja, her lover and a rickshaw driver by profession, finds out, he sets out for her hometown to rescue her.
● Cast: Darshan, Deepa Sannidhi, R Sarathkumar

HUDUGARU

Prabhu, Chandru and Siddesh aspire to have a government job and try to lead a simple lifestyle. But their lives change dramatically when they attempt to unite two lovers.
● Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Yogesh, Srinagar Kitty

HUBLI

A man, who is a terror to antisocial elements, loses his memory. He is chased by a policeman, who regards him as a terrorist.
● Cast: Sudeep, Rakshita

KANNUKKUL NILAVU

Gautham, a man with special needs, comes to Pondicherry. Hema, a carefree woman, befriends him and with the help of her father, who is a psychologist, unravels his horrific past life.
● Cast: Joseph Vijay, Shalini, Kaveri

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 OUR UNHEALTHY OBSESSION WITH CHOICE BY RENATA SALECL

We face an endless string of choices, which leads us to feel anxiety, guilt and pangs of inadequacy that we are perhaps making the wrong ones. But philosopher Renata Salecl asks: Could individual choices be distracting us from something bigger—our power as social thinkers?

2 THE CASE FOR ENGINEERING OUR FOOD BY PAMELA RONALD

Pamela Ronald studies the genes that make plants more resistant to disease and stress. In an eye-opening talk, she describes her decade-long quest to isolate a gene that allows rice to survive prolonged flooding.

3 THE HIDDEN POWER OF SMILING BY RON GUTMAN

Did you know your smile can be a predictor of how long you'll live – and that a simple smile has a measurable effect on your overall well-being? Ron Gutman reviews a raft of studies about smiling, and reveals some surprising results.

4 WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE THE CHILD OF IMMIGRANTS BY MICHAEL RAIN

Michael Rain is on a mission to tell the stories of first-generation immigrants, who have strong ties both to the countries they grew up in and their countries of origin. In a personal talk, he breaks down the mischaracterizations and limited narratives of immigrants and shares the stories of the worlds they belong to.

5 WHAT SHOULD ELECTRIC CARS SOUND LIKE BY RENZO VITALE

Get a preview of what the future may sound like as acoustic engineer and musician Renzo Vitale shows how he's composing a voice for electric cars.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

BIRBAL TRILOGY (Kannada)

A wrongly accused murderer who is helped by Advocate Mahesh Das despite of various threats faced by them during the investigation.
Cast: M. G. Srinivas, Suresh Heblikar, Rukmini Vasanth
● Watch on: Amazon Prime

NEWTON (Hindi)

A government servant is sent to a politically sensitive area in Central India for election duty. He attempts to hold a fair and free election despite various obstacles.
Cast: Rajkummar Rao, Anjali Patil, Pankaj Tripathi, Raghubir Yadav
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SEETHARAMA KALYANA (Kannada)

Arya, a righteous man, falls in love with a small-town woman named Geetha, unaware of the obstacles that lie ahead for both of them.
Cast: Nikhil Gowda, Rachita Ram, Madhoo
● Watch on: Zee 5

KINAVALLI (Malayalam)

Ann's surprise for her husband on their wedding anniversary gets ruined when they and their friends encounter a paranormal presence.
Cast: Surabhi Santosh, Ajmal Zayn, Vijay Johnny, Hareesh Kanaran
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

GAALI SAMPATH (Telugu)

Gaali Sampath loses his voice in an accident and unknowingly plays spoilsport in his son's love story. When his son yells at him for sabotaging his plans, a disappointed Sampath leaving home slips into a well left uncovered. How he survives in the well is the crux of the story.
Cast: Rajendra Prasad, Sri Vishnu, Lovely Singh, Satya
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NINNILA NINNILA (Telugu)

In London, Dev, an overweight, genius chef who suffers with muscle spasms, meets Tara and love blossoms, but things take an interesting turn when he crosses paths with Maya.
Cast: Ashok Selvan, Nithya Menen, Ritu Varma, Nassar, Dave Wong
● Watch on: Zee 5

THE WIFE (Hindi)

A young married couple moves into a new house only to find themselves surrounded by haunted spirits.
Cast: Gurmeet Choudhary, Sayani Datta
● Watch on: Zee 5

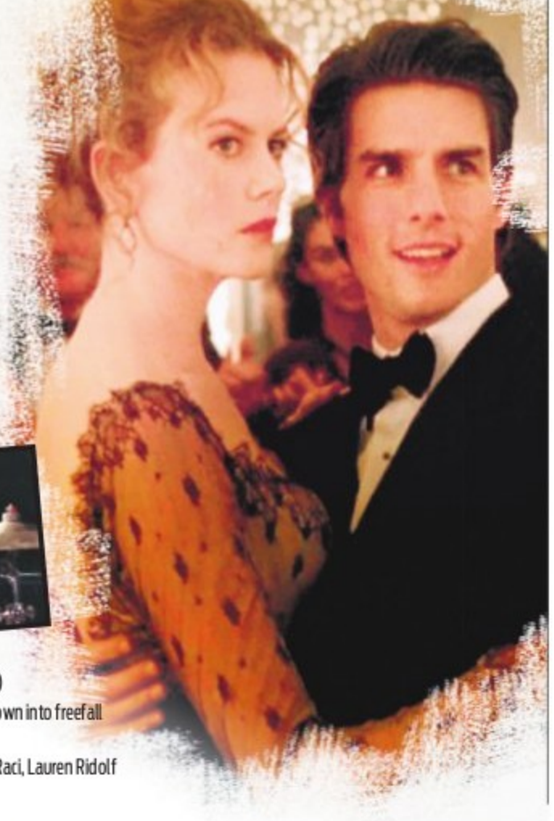
FOREIGN

EYES WIDE SHUT (English)

After Dr. Bill Hartford's wife, Alice admits to having sexual fantasies about a man she met, Bill becomes obsessed with having a sexual encounter. He discovers an underground sexual group and attends one of their meetings – and quickly discovers that he is in over his head.
Cast: Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Sydney Pollack, Todd Field
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SOUND OF METAL (English)

A heavy-metal drummer's life is thrown into freefall when he begins to lose his hearing.
Cast: Riz Ahmed, Olivia Cooke, Paul Raci, Lauren Ridolf
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video



WILD TALES (Spanish)

A waitress adds a special ingredient to an arrogant loan shark's meal in one of several tales dealing with extremes of human behaviour.
Cast: Ricardo Darin, Leonardo Sbaraglia, Julieta Zylberberg, Rita Cortese
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

ONE NIGHT IN MIAMI (English)

On the night of Feb. 25, 1964, in Miami, Cassius Clay joins Jim Brown, Sam Cooke and Malcom X, and they discuss the responsibility of being successful black men during the civil rights movement.
Cast: Leslie Odom Jr, Kingsley Ben-Adir, Aldis Hodge, Eli Goree
● Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Zee 5: ₹ 99 per month

Waking up to your best self

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

You can manifest your best self through embracing good vibes and a disciplined lifestyle. Journals these days are all the rage, since they help us connect with our inner self. But there's another way to unlock this door. Sleeping is integral to our holistic well being. It doesn't just help us strive for a well balanced life but is also an approach to achieving better productivity and happiness. Or as Mita Vijay, founder of wellness studio Bodhsara, says, "Sleep plays a great role in keeping us healthy. Sleep helps repair and heal our heart and blood vessels, which impacts our overall health. Our body and mind recovers in deep sleep."

This year, the sleep industry is predicted to be huge with people investing big time in their sleep routines, bedroom rituals and essentials like aroma oils, salt lamps, mattresses that promise to be the 'bed of dreams', cushions and pillows with memory foam, soft ones as well as orthopaedic pillows for spondylitis and much more. Brands are also offering solutions to creating Zen vibes through Feng Shui, crystals, architecture, interiors, and more. For instance, ITC hotels has not only trademarked 'Sleeep' but has also come up with sleep experiences like packages designed to rest and recharge, which includes blackout curtains, sleep music, spa treatment, a 'workdown' call, and more.

Our sleep patterns are guided by our habits. So, an evening bedtime routine might help make your life more productive. Turning to no-work mode as you return home from office relieves the stress. Spending quality time with family whilst playing board games or cooking also helps keep anxiety at bay, which could be one of the main reasons of sleep disturbances. This kind of an evening routine helps promote organisation and planning, and naturally, the day that follows is more productive. Here are some other things to try:

1. Music is a contributing force to releasing stress, tension, and preparing your body for sound slumber. So incorporate soothing music in the sleep ritual.
2. There are certain aromas known to induce a good night's sleep like lavender (which has a calming effect) while rose has a restful one. A blend of essential oils available in the form of a pillow mist or oil for lamps and candles help to ease out and soothe the nerves.
3. There's nothing more relaxing than a grandmother's touch on our head or back. Loving gestures like these coupled with aroma oils, along with a glass of milk, can also help a lot. Milk and certain other foods like poppy seeds and chamomile tea are known for their sleep inducing properties.
4. Don't underestimate the power of gratitude. Writing a journal or speaking aloud of how wonderful the day was, thanking God before a meal, or being able to thank nature for being kind and giving makes life easier. Let's thank people around us who contribute in their own way to our mundane life.
5. The first few moments of the morning set the pace of the day. Being still and meditative in the morning helps to kickstart the day with positivity.

World Sleep Day is celebrated in March to magnify the importance of sleep. So let's make sure we don't snooze on the quality of our sleep, thus allowing ourselves to be more creative and energetic through out the day.

(The author is a social media influencer)

MOVING MOMENTS

Sagar Puranik, director of the short film *Mahaan Hutatma*, which is a tribute to the army and freedom fighters, takes *CE* behind the scenes of the movie which got a mention in the 66th National Film Awards 2018

Stills from the film

> *We did a screening for students and by the end, most were in tears. These reactions are more precious than awards*
>
> - Sagar Puranik, director

MONIKA MONALISA

Recently, the world observed the 90th anniversary of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh, who sacrificed his life at the age of 23. This brought back memories of the many sacrifices of our freedom fighters. Kannada short film *Mahaan Hutatma* is a tribute to the Indian Army and these freedom fighters. The movie is being privately screened on April 3, at Kalavidara Sangha, Chamrajpet. The movie stars actors like Pranayaraja Srinath Akshay, Akshay Chandrashekar, and Adhvithi Shetty to name a few.

With a special mention at the 66th National Film Awards in the non-feature category, *Mahaan Hutatma* has become the first Kannada movie in the same category to bag a winning spot. It's been more than two years of wait for the release of the film. But what took so long? Sagar Puranik, director of the movie, says it's a big-budget movie and they wanted to recover the amount before releasing the movie. "We've spent close to ₹20 lakh on the film, which is probably one of the most expensive projects in the industry. We wanted to recover at least half of the cost and then release the film," says Puranik, adding that they were also looking for sponsors or grants but due to the pandemic, the release date delayed further.

Since it is a period film, special attention was taken about the location where it was shot. "Most of the visuals were shot in and around Bengaluru, like Malleswaram, to give that pre-Independence look. Some of the Indian border scenes were shot in the Turahalli forest, for which we took special permission from the forest department," says the 28-year-old director, who is soon going to be out with his feature film.

The movie, which was an official selection in film festivals like Hollywood Silver Screen Festival, Los Angeles, Lake City International Film Festival, New Delhi to name a few, also got a special mention at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival 2020. Puranik has been garnering praises from movie industry insiders like Tharun Sudhir, director of latest blockbuster Darshan-starrer *Roberrt*. However, Puranik is waiting for 'honest feedback' from people once it releases on the OTT platform. "We did a screening for the students of IFIM Business School and by the end of the film, most of them had tears in their eyes. These reactions are more precious to me than any awards," says Puranik, adding that on April 3, he will announce the OTT platform that the movie will to be released on.

Ghost of Sparta: Vintage replay

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

In keeping with my 'replay' theme for 2021, I replayed 'God of War: Ghost of Sparta'. The game released as a PSP exclusive, so I managed to borrow one from a kind friend. In these difficult days where the prospect of receiving a tangible Ragnarok update seems bleaker than getting one for *Valimai*, reliving classics in the franchise will make us feel good, if only temporarily. Ghost of Sparta is a game that is very sure of itself. It is almost as confident as its protagonist, the angry and unconscientious Kratos. However, its confidence might fool us into thinking it is also steadfast. Oh no. Let me explain. The PSP has a tiny screen, smaller than the average phone screen of 2021. The PSP also does not have a right joystick, forcing a stable camera angle. One would assume that these constraints would make the game linear, and therefore — easy. GoW however, is sure of itself, sure to fool us into a sense of comfort in knowing what lies ahead.

The story in this game involves the Ghost of Sparta seeking out his long-lost brother, Deimos. The storyline is punctuated by flashbacks of Kratos' youth. The pathway to fixing his past is simple. Kratos must visit the Temple of Poseidon, defeat Scylla, slash Callisto to learn no new information, defeat Thanatos' daughter, use the key of Crete, cross the Gates of Herakleon, travel to the Temple of Ares, then to the Jails of Sparta ....*inhales deeply*.... receive the Arms of Sparta, stumble into Midas, find the statue of Poseidon in the city of Atlantis, and then enter the Domain of Death to search his brother. See? Simple. Ghost of Sparta would really be a joyful story about a man going on a pilgrimage; that is, if we didn't see him ripping people's heads off so often.

The path that Kratos takes is filled with a lot of traffic. There are huge spiders spitting poison, cyclops, minotaurs, automatons that can only be destroyed by a special fire, hounds, and more! However, Kratos is armed with the powers to destroy them. But as they get stronger, we must ensure that he has enough orbs, horns, feathers, and eyes (so weird) to max out the upgrades. You might just overuse one power-up — the spinning chains one, but you still need upgrades! Here, the illusion of the stable camera angles forces us to explore. An old-school puzzle. The game shows us a main path. But there may be a chest hidden, just out of sight.

Except for the story, Ghost of Sparta feels like concept art for the recent God of War games. While some bits may not have aged well, the game is right in being confident, as it provides a healthy challenge for one that is 11 years old. 299/300 for the Spartan.

CITY READ

'World's largest microbrewery' comes to town

Ironhill India - a chain of craft breweries, has opened doors in Bengaluru. Spread across 1.3 lac sq ft, the microbrewery will serve eight varieties of beer and can accommodate more than 1,500 people. In a statement, Teja Chekuri, founder, said, "The city is now host to the largest microbrewery in the world and will introduce patrons to new brews and indigenous ingredients that will surprise them. We bring in the knowledge of our expert brew-masters, who have travelled around the world unearthing some of the most supreme flavours for Bengalureans to savour."

Call for applications for fellowship programme

The Indian Institute for Human Settlements has launched the sixth iteration of the Urban Fellows Programme (UFP) 2021-22. The nine-month interdisciplinary UFP is full-time and is conducted out of the IIHS Bengaluru City Campus. This iteration of the UFP will run from August 2021 to May 2022. Applications close on April 11. Check urbanfellows.iihs.co.in for details.

TALKING ART

WHAT'S IN A FAMILY PORTRAIT, YOU ASK?

JITHA KARTHIKEYAN
Email: jithakarthikeyan2@gmail.com

(Jitha Karthikeyan is an artist and curator, passionate about making art accessible to the larger public)

Talking art has never been easy. Other than your own tribe, the rest of the world looks at you like you have just revived the apparently extinct Kawishana language. This, of course, after the initial interactions, laced with the customary questions that obviously yield unsatisfactory replies. Most often, it starts off with the simple question, "So, do you take art classes? I am looking for a good class to send my children to, every alternate weekend, when they don't have their tennis/ math/ music/ personality development/ handwriting classes."

Once that is met with an unexpected negative reply (how can an artist not take art classes?!), comes the second most common query or rather, statement, of having long nursed this yearning to fill that wall next to the dining room door, with a family portrait. There are, of course, several photographs to choose, from the family albums, you see.

And this one takes the cake — "Could you sneak in and out of my apartment, when my spouse is away at work and paint a family portrait on a wall in that unused room as a birthday surprise?"

Having crossed many exasperated sighs, one is duly met with the very expression one imagines on the face of an anthropologist, who has just discovered a hitherto unknown species of the human race.

"So then, what do you do?"

"Well, I like to paint my own stuff."

"You mean, you are busy with your own family albums?"

True. Artists have their own albums tucked away in their heads. Albums filled with their thoughts, their concerns about the world they inhabit — be it socio-economic or political issues or the search for the multiple layers of their being. Albums that spill forth and slowly find their way into whatever they create.

This is the exact moment when the 'Kawishana language revival look' makes its appearance.

"Why don't you step into my studio some day? I would love to show you what I do."

With that parting statement, you know that perhaps, you may never see them again. You don't fit into the known compartments. Why would they want to step into a world that tickles them with incomprehensible words, visuals that are a struggle to understand and be left with a feeling of utter ignorance? Wisdom cautions them to not indulge in conversations with this subset of humans, except for the occasional enquiries about health and the weather.

Talking art is never easy. Being an artist, clearly misunderstood. We do not sit under a clear, blue sky, far removed from the chaos of everyday life, creating art. We laugh at the same jokes you do. We cry watching the same, silly sentimental movies too. We have jobs, sometimes. We cook, we clean, we play our family roles and we don't talk philosophy along with our meals. And no, we do not talk about juxtapositions, narratives, time and space and abstraction to the vegetable vendor. That is purely reserved for our concept notes. So, step into our studios bravely. Let's laugh over a cuppa.

SMART ADS

WANTED

Leading Indian Company requires immediately marketing Executives, Fresher or with Experience of 2 Years in Ortho & Spine Implants Company. Attractive Salary Package in the industry. Interested can apply through mail **jayonblr14@gmail.com** or Call **9019664555 / 7899250975.**

Real-life activities to suit reel-life roles

Director Hemanth M Rao has designed activities to build on-screen chemistry of the lead pair, Rakshit Shetty and Rukmini Vasanth

A SHARADHAA

PREPARATION for Hemanth M Rao's *Sapta Sagaradaache Yello* is on track with the director's current focus on a workshop he conducted for lead pair Rakshit Shetty and Rukmini Vasanth. The team shared a few pictures which show both Rakshit and Rukmini thoroughly involved in activities, which are said to trust-building exercises.

The lead pair was asked to cook a meal, took part in a blindfold challenge, solved puzzles together, apart from a lot of mirroring exercises. Hemanth, who has been particular about this workshop, designed it for the lead actors to get familiar with themselves, understand their characters, and also build that on-screen chemistry. "The workshop was designed to build a sense of understanding for the reel couple, Manu and Priya. We have done a few sessions and it has been a lot of fun," says Hemanth, who added that the idea to do this was to keep them on their toes, and see how best he could engage with them. "It was combined motivation and energy which made it fun," the director says.

The actor-director is collaborating for the second time--- after *Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu*– for this film which is an intense love story. The project, bankrolled by Paramvah Studios, plans to go on floors in the next few days. *Sapta Sagardaache Yello* has on board music director Charan Raj and cameraperson Adhvaitha Gurumurthy.

Rakshit Shetty and Rukmini Vasanth, the lead cast of *Sapta Sagaradaache Yello* have been involved in various team building activities.

The workshop was designed to build a sense of understanding for the reel couple, Manu and Priya. We have done a few sessions and it has been a lot of fun

Hemanth M Rao, director

PATRALEKHAA PLAYS ASPIRING ACTRESS IN *MAI HERO BOLL RAHA HU*

I am playing the character of Laila who is aspiring to be an actress. Laila can go to any extent to hide her weaknesses. So, I am extremely excited to see how my character will attract the audience

Patralekhaa, actor

CE FEATURES

Patralekhaa is all set to essay the role of an actress in the upcoming series *Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu,* and is awaiting the response of her fans to her role.

"I am playing the character of Laila who is aspiring to be an actress. Laila can go to any extent to hide her weaknesses. So, I am extremely excited to see how my character will attract the audience," she says.

The actress adds it was a fun shoot."When Ekta (Kapoor) ma'am offered me the part, I was thrilled. It was fun being a part of the show," she says.

Mai Hero Boll Raha Hu is set in the late eighties early nineties and also stars Parth Samthaan, as Patralekhaa's love interest. The show also features Arshin Mehta, Meenal Sahu, Arslan Goni, Ganesh Yadav, Errol Marks, Anubhav Nanda, Tarun Chaturvedi, Saquib Ayubi, Ankit Gupta, Tarul Swami, and Sumit Satija.

Salaga pre-release event at Hosapete on April 10

An official announcement about the release date of Duniya Vijay's directorial debut, produced by KP Sreekanth, will be made on April 5

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Duniya Vijay's directorial debut *Salaga* is in line to hit screens, and the makers will officially announce the release date on April 5. The film is expected to release next month. Earlier reports had mentioned that the team had planned for the film to hit theatres on April 15, however, an official confirmation from the production house will reveal the exact release date. Meanwhile, a pre-release event is planned at Hosapete on April 10, for which the team is currently preparing with dance rehearsals. At the same time, Covid-19 restrictions are being kept in mind.

On the other hand, team Salaga has chosen the game of cricket as part of their promotional strategy and are conducting tournaments in various part of Karnataka, including Chitradurga, Mysuru and Huballi. *Salaga's* producer K P Sreekanth is joining hands with Vijay for the first time. The songs, composed by Charan Raj, have already created a lot of buzz around the film, which is based on an underworld subject. This being actor Vijay's first attempt at direction has further raised the anticipation. The film also features Sanjana Anand in the female lead. Dhananjay plays the role of a police officer, while Nagabhusan plays a prominent character along with BV Bhaskar, Achyuth Kumar and Rangayana Raghu in the cast.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui drops his debut music video *Baarish Ki Jaaye*

CE FEATURES

Actor **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** has dropped his first-ever music video. Titled *Baarish Ki Jaaye*, the song features Nawazuddin as a gangster and 'roadside romeo'. The girl he loves, played by Sunanda Sharma, has a mental health issue. She feels judged by society but is moved by the gangster's advances.

The song ends with a shower of rain interrupting their wedding. At the last minute, an elderly woman steps in with an umbrella to guard the holy fire.

The song is written and composed by Jaani and sung by National Film Award Winner B Praak.

PC shares an update about her next Bollywood film

CE FEATURES

Priyanka Chopra on Friday held an 'Ask Me Anything' session on Twitter. When asked by a fan what is her next Bollywood movie, Priyanka teased, "Next year!!!"

Priyanka's last Bollywood release was in 2019. She had starred alongside Farhan Akhtar and Zaira Wasim in Shonali Bose's *The Sky Is Pink*. Priyanka was cast opposite Salman Khan in *Bharat* (2019) but dropped out of the project due to her wedding.

Priyanka's last film, *The White Tiger (*2021), is up for a Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar. Pee-Cee has served as an executive producer on the title.

Akshay Kumar wraps up *Atrangi Re*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR **Akshay Kumar** has wrapped up *Atrangi Re*, co-starring Sara Ali Khan and Dhanush. The romantic drama is directed by Aanand L Rai. In a post, Akshay shared his first look from the film and wrote, "It's the last day of *#AtrangiRe* and I can't wait for you all to experience the magic created by @aanandlrai." He also thanked his "co-stars #SaraAliKhan and @dhanushkraja for letting me be a part of this beautiful film."

Akshay is dressed in a magician's attire in the picture. He has a sly grin on his face and the *King of Hearts* in his palm.

Atrangi Re is said to follow two parallel narratives from different timelines. Sara supposedly has a double role in the film.

Barrymore has lot in common with Lilly Singh

CE FEATURES

HOLLYWOOD actor Drew Barrymore says she feels a certain symmetry with Indian-Canadian comedian Lilly Singh.

"Lilly and I have the most exciting thing in common which is our love for macaroni and cheese," Barrymore said on The Drew Barrymore Show, while hosting Lilly as a guest.

She also shared that she loves that they both are trying to figure out to be true to themselves.

"I really do feel a lot of symmetry with you Lilly," the actress concluded on the show that airs in India on Zee Cafe.